

Reagan not under probe — Report

NEW YORK (R) — Iran-contra prosecutor Lawrence Walsh has told former President Ronald Reagan that he is not under investigation in connection with the worst scandal of his two terms in office, the New York Times reported on Wednesday. Mr. Walsh said Mr. Reagan's lawyers a letter last Thursday strongly suggesting that prosecutors have decided the evidence does not warrant criminal charges against Mr. Reagan, the New York Times said. "This office regards President Reagan as simply a witness and not as a subject or target," Mr. Walsh wrote in the letter. According to Theodore Olson, a Reagan lawyer who the New York Times said sought the letter from Mr. Walsh, the letter meant that the former president was out of legal jeopardy. "It has been my understanding that President Reagan is not being considered by the independent counsel's investigation as someone who is a candidate for indictment or as a potential defendant in any way," Mr. Olson told the New York Times on Tuesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الزاوي

Volume 17 Number 5072

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 6-7, 1992, SAHR 6-7, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iran vice-president visits Damascus

DAMASCUS (AP) — Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi arrived in Damascus Wednesday for talks involving the Gulf and South Lebanon as well as bilateral relations. Mr. Habibi, who heads the Iranian side of the Syrian-Iranian Joint Supreme Committee, was welcomed at Damascus airport by his Syrian counterpart, Abdul Halim Khaddam, who also heads the Syrian side of the committee. The committee was formed last year to coordinate bilateral relations as well as their stands on major regional and international issues.

Iran denies nuclear weapons programme

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Iran has denied a report by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre that it has a nuclear weapons development programme. "I categorically deny that Iran has any sort of plans for producing atomic bombs. All of our research in nuclear technology is just peaceful," Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, said. "I believe these stories are basically fabricated by Israel," Mr. Kharrazi told Reuters. The Wiesenthal Centre report said Iran, Syria and Libya are using technology and equipment supplied by Western firms to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles. The report's author, Kenneth Timmerman, said on Monday that Iran could have nuclear arms within five years.

King Hassan meets U.N. envoy

RABAT (R) — The United Nations special envoy on Western Sahara has had talks with King Hassan in a further attempt to refloat a peace plan for the disputed territory, a source close to the government said. The source said the king received Sahabzada Yaqub Khan for an hour on Monday. No details of their talks were released. Mr. Yaqub Khan's presence in Rabat has not been reported by the official media. A U.N. plan for a referendum to settle the future of the former Spanish colony has been stranded for over a year by a dispute over who is eligible to vote.

VoA to set up station in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Information Agency has announced a deal with the government of Kuwait to build a Voice of America (VoA) radio relay station there. The agreement will allow the VoA, the U.S. government's international radio broadcasting service, to expand broadcasting to the Middle East. "We have long needed better broadcasting in the region," said USIA spokesman Joseph Bruns. "The Gulf war showed us the importance of needing to broadcast in the Middle East."

Sirhan denied parole for 14th time

CORCORAN, California (R) — Sirhan Sirhan, who is serving a life sentence for the 1968 assassination of presidential candidate Robert Kennedy, was denied parole on Tuesday for the 14th time, officials said. A three-member parole board at Corcoran state prison here ruled Mr. Sirhan remains a threat to society after 24 years of imprisonment and should not be released. Mr. Sirhan, 48, was convicted of fatally shooting Mr. Kennedy in the pantry of a Los Angeles hotel on June 5, 1968, just after the New York senator won the California Democratic presidential primary. Mr. Sirhan refused to attend the hearing.

Iran, Russia call for closer economic ties

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian and Russian ministers, discussing economic cooperation in Tehran, called for expansion of relations between the two countries, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Tuesday. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told Russia's Foreign Economic Relations Minister Pyotr Aven on Monday that trade and cooperation in transport, fisheries and environment could expand, IRNA said.

Government comes under criticism for 'neutrality' in 'corruption' case debate

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Throughout the Lower House of Parliament's extensive debate of and vote on the Azraq-Jafr highway "corruption case" government members took independent positions on what should be done, but Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his cabinet as a whole made it a point to keep strict neutrality, maintaining, albeit quietly, that this was a case for the law and not for politicians to handle. By opting for neutrality the government not only wanted to prove and show it abided by the letter of the Jordanian Constitution which separates the three authorities — the executive, the legislative and the judicial. It also preferred to stay on the sidelines of a case whose protagonists were the traditionally pro- or anti-Rifai camps.

The fact that Jordan in the pre-democracy era followed a systematic "change of caps" policy in appointing prime ministers, it was only natural that many politicians avoid supporters of the

one or the other prime minister who alternated on this post during the past decade or so.

This transcended these traditional alliances when it was being formed so that now it has among its ranks ministers who at one time or another served with Mr. Rifai or one of his opponents.

Visibly so were the positions of Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Ensour, who served with former Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, who served with Mr. Rifai's government. Mr. Ensour voted to indict the three officials while Mr. Hindawi voted against the indictment in all three cases.

Sharif Zeid is also perceived by the public as the premier to have taken over the reins of government in the Kingdom after Mr. Rifai was removed from his post following popular riots calling for his ouster. Sharif Zeid is also the man who fulfilled aspirations for clean and honest national elections in the country.

But despite its neutrality, or maybe because of it, the govern-

ment did not escape criticism from the different sides of this case. Proponents and opponents of indicting the three former officials on charges of misuse of power assailed the government for its neutrality and some went beyond to question the principle of any government maintaining any kind of neutrality on any issue.

"There is not one government in the whole world which stays neutral on the range of important issues facing the country all the time," a former minister, who asked to remain anonymous, told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "The government failed to be united in the House during the past two weeks and that sets a dangerous precedent," he said.

The eight deputy-cum-ministers in Sharif Zeid's government voted according to their own personal convictions, which may on the one hand worked to show that the premier did not force a decision on them leaving it to their own judgement. But it also shows that there was no unity of purpose in a government that calls itself a coalition only when it



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

is convenient, according to politicians. "It is difficult to understand the stand of the government," one analyst said. "It does not follow a clear line which is making it look more like a coalition forces than a united government predicted politically as right of centre," the analyst said. "This government was formed under one unifying umbrella, the umbrella of Sharif Zeid," an independent analyst said. "But through its self-imposed neutrality, the picture has changed and it appears that while the umbrella is there, there are conflicting tendencies slipping from its corners," he added. The pro-Rifai camp were even harsher in their criticism of the government. "If a chicken is stolen in a small village

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Television benefits deputies, but government seen to score higher

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The unprecedented public access to the recent debate in Parliament on corruption allegations, including television coverage of the sessions, served as an ideal forum for many deputies to tell their electorate that they were fulfilling their election promises. Those who opposed indicting former officials on corruption charges also gained political mileage out of their arguments that either the whole exercise was futile or it was a case of selective approach.

But the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, simply by virtue of its decision to allow the deputies to speak while it maintained a stoic silence, gained the best out of the entire deal in the form of added credibility, according to political and media experts as well as many on Amman's streets.

"The extensive coverage that Jordan Television gave to the debate in the Lower House was a clear message from the government to the people that it is determined to press ahead on the course towards full-fledged democracy," said Dr. Nasser Tabboub, a political science professor at the University of Jordan.

dan. "By allowing the people to hear what their elected representatives had to say with no restrictions, the government has emerged the winner in the episode," the professor added. Dr. Tabboub conceded that the television and radio coverage indeed offered the deputies an excellent chance to "inform their constituencies that they were delivering on their promises."

By same token, the deputies also told the electorate that their efforts were not "good enough." Dr. Tabboub was referring to the House vote to indict former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh and to reject similar motions against former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh.

According to Dr. Tabboub, "it was a classic example of political opportunism, where everyone tries to make capital by making certain compromises while hoping for gains on the other end." In this case, he added, "the Muslim Brotherhood and other political forces in the House had the opportunity to let their people hear them, but there is no doubt that the government gained most of it since it made it abundantly clear that there was

no turning back on the democratisation process." Osama Al Sharif, editor of the English-language weekly Star and former managing editor of Al Dustour Arabic-language daily, commented that the official media appeared to have outdone the newspapers in covering the House sessions this week and last.

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Husseini says deal possible in 9 months

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and the Palestinians could reach an agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories in less than nine months, leading Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini said Wednesday.

He said Palestinians were ready to stop resisting the occupation by violence if Israel halts repressive actions such as tax raids, curfews and detentions without trial.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said a deal on autonomy, or self-rule, could be struck within nine to 12 months. Mr. Husseini, in an interview with the Associated Press, responded, "If there will be good will and seriousness from the Israeli side, we can do it in even less than nine months."

The next round of talks on autonomy is to begin Aug. 24 in Washington. It will be the first with Mr. Rabin's newly installed government.

During that round, Israel will propose holding general elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to select an administrative council of 13 to 15 Palestinians to run the territories during autonomy, Israeli newspapers said Wednesday.

It was not clear what powers the council would wield during the five-year period of autonomy. Mr. Rabin's predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, offered only municipal elections.

Mr. Rabin's office refused comment on the reports.

Mr. Husseini said the Palestinians would insist on electing a 180-member assembly with full law-making authority — something Mr. Rabin rules out. The Palestinians see the elected assembly as a step towards statehood.

hood. The autonomy plan, agreed by Israel and Egypt in the U.S.-brokered Camp David accords of 1978, stipulates a five-year interim period of self-rule, after which the final status of the territories must be settled.

The Israelis argue that the interim settlement should not prejudice the outcome of the negotiations on the permanent status, which are to begin in the third year of autonomy.

Mr. Husseini, 52, is the leading Palestinian political figure in the occupied territories. But because the Shamir government disavowed him as a negotiating partner, he has had to work behind the scenes under the title of chief adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team.

Rabin aides have hinted that they may be more forthcoming on Mr. Husseini's status.

Mr. Husseini's unofficial leadership role was evident during the interview in his office in Arab East Jerusalem. One Palestinian came to enlist his help in paying a hospital bill. Others sought his mediation in marital and neighbourhood disputes.

In reply to a question, Mr. Husseini said a "ceasefire" between Israelis and Palestinians was possible during the talks.

"Stop the settlements, stop confiscating land. We have some 25 points. If the Israelis will start to take some steps there, we can take some steps on our side," Mr. Husseini said.

Mr. Husseini warned that the talks could be derailed if Washington grants Israel \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees without forcing Israel to stop building

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Israeli army blocks 'private' settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army in the occupied West Bank has ordered a freeze on all new private house construction for Jewish settlers, a housing ministry spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

"The order came from the army and the defence ministry," she told Reuters. "We do not know how long the order will last."

According to the new order, private individuals — even if they already own the land — will not be permitted to begin construction on new homes in the West Bank.

Settlement activists said that they had no knowledge of this order. They said that during the past few days, there had been a temporary freeze on the granting of long-term land leases to individuals wishing to build private homes in the occupied territories, but that individuals who already had obtained a lease could begin building.

However, the housing ministry spokeswoman contradicted this statement, saying that according to the order, even individuals who already own land could not begin building. Until now, only government housing projects had been frozen.

Housing Minister Binayamin Ben-Eliezer Tuesday weathered attacks from both sides of the political spectrum during a Knesset finance committee discussion on the government's decision to freeze building starts in the occupied territories.

According to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem, more than 86 Palestinians have been killed by undercover units since they were formed in 1989.

Protest in Tafleeh against Hawamdeh indictment

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Less than 48 hours after former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh was indicted by the Lower House of Parliament on a charge of misuse of public funds, accusations of force play and a call to dissolve the House came from the former official's hometown of Tafleeh in southern Jordan.

Delivering an official complaint to Tafleeh Governor Khaled Al Bawaly, representatives of some 1,500 people who marched to the governor's office, called on the government to dissolve Parliament and call for new elections "because the Parliament was incapable of making fair decisions," an eyewitness told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"If Mahmoud Hawamdeh is responsible for the JD 12 billion

debt that Jordan has, then let him hang for his crime," read the complaint. "But if he is guilty then so is every member of the government he served in and they too must hang," the statement demanded.

The statement was delivered to the governor by Abdul Wahab Mhaisen, Ibrahim Oran and Abdul Kareem Saud following Mr. Hawamdeh's indictment on corruption charges this week by the Lower House.

Mr. Hawamdeh was the only one among the three former officials who was indicted by the Lower House when 54 out of 71 deputies voted to send him to court. Similar motions against former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh failed to muster enough votes in support.

Senator Mohammad Qoran, a native of Tafleeh, told the Jordan

Times that Mr. Hawamdeh "belongs to a large family in Tafleeh and people did not understand why he was singled out in (the House) verdict — they were upset."

Several Tafleeh residents reached by telephone told the Jordan Times that "tribalism was not a factor in the protest petition."

"Basically, people are saying that it is unfair and unjust to hold one person responsible for all the corruption that created JD 12 billion of debt," said a Tafleeh-based observer.

"Because this one person happens to be from Tafleeh the tribal leaders and elders met Tuesday evening and decided to protest this unfair indictment," added the observer. "They left they must protect their own when they are unfairly judged while others get away scot-free."

According to eyewitnesses the protesters also asked why former officials now "sitting in the Lower House of Parliament" were not held accountable for their role in "former governments where corruption was widespread."

Among the projects singled out in the protesters' statement for having been built by "crooked means" were the Queen Alia Airport, the King Abdullah Gardens, the Abu Nsir housing project, the Jbeila amusement park, and the southern Jordan Cement Factory. The Petra Bank scandal was also cited.

Abdullah Akaileh, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Tafleeh, was singled out for voting in favour of Mr. Hawamdeh's indictment.

Mr. Akaileh voted for the indictment of all three accused former officials. The two other

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Aloni's attack on 'death squads' upsets Eitan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Education Minister Shulamit Aloni on Wednesday criticised the use of undercover squads in the occupied territories, saying soldiers were being forced to "swiftly issue death sentences" against Palestinians.

A right-wing lawmaker called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to fire the minister, who heads Israel's left-wing Meretz coalition, on grounds she was undercutting morale in the army.

The statements were part of a broadening controversy over the units designed to seek out leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

According to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem, more than 86 Palestinians have been killed by undercover units since they were formed in 1989.

Some have been shot under questionable circumstances during chases after guerrilla suspects, the group says.

"I have a moral problem. I'd rather have more work and more units there and not do it the way it is done," said Mr. Aloni, whose bloc of three small parties is chief coalition partner in the new labour-led government.

Meretz, which is more dovish than Labour, favours a Palestinian state beside Israel.

Two soldiers working in the special units, which often use Arab disguises, have died in raids the past month.

"I think it is not good for 18-year-olds to don clothes that aren't theirs and that they should quickly and swiftly issue death sentences and sometimes carry them out," Mrs. Aloni told Israel

Radio. "This is not good for the youth and not good for the army or society."

Parliament member Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff from the right-wing Tzomet Party, said Mr. Rabin should "fire her from the government today" unless she retracted her remarks.

"This demoralises the army, when a minister speaks in this way and... casts doubt on the credibility of commanders or orders," Mr. Eitan told the radio.

Mr. Eitan also argued that the undercover "death squads" have been a deterrent to further violence.

Military commanders have repeatedly denied that the undercover soldiers operate with "shoot-to-kill" instructions, saying they are guided by the

same firing orders as regular troops. These rules require soldiers to shout a warning and fire in the air before aiming.

The army chief of staff, Ehud Barak, defended the squads at a hearing Tuesday before the parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. The Hebrew daily Haaretz quoted Lieutenant-General Barak as saying it was difficult "to judge these things from an air-conditioned room."

"These elite units operate with clear instructions, but the reality they are working in is complicated," Gen. Barak was quoted as saying.

Yossi Sarid, a parliamentary member of Mr. Aloni's Meretz bloc, told the foreign affairs and defence committee that open-fire orders for undercover soldiers were unclear.

Press approach to 'corruption' debate — new game in an unfamiliar ground

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian media faced a crucial test in the past two weeks as the country's eyes and ears focused on the debate in Parliament over alleged corruption cases. And, for all practical purposes, the journalists failed to rise to the challenge of tackling an important issue in the democratic process, according to local and foreign media experts and observers.

The public debate in the Lower House of Parliament over "corruption," or "misuse of power" as some people prefer to call it, was seen as a unique opportunity for the Jordanian press and media generally to pick up the lead as opinion makers inasmuch as it was a test for the representatives of the people whose election platforms included sweeping promises to weed out misuse of public funds and exploitation of public funds by officials.

Varying reasons are put forward by media experts on why the journalists have fallen far short of playing their rightful role in the affair through running investigative reports and meaningful commentaries and analyses on the significance of the affair, particularly to the background of evolving democracy in Jordan and against the backdrop of the draft law on press and publications that is about to be discussed on the House floor.

The very fact that a powerful Jordanian politician as former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai was implicated in the affair, coupled with the restrictions that were a way for life for the Jordanian media until 1989, seemed to have been a key influential factor in shaping the journalists' approach, according to some commentators.

"The failure may be due to the currency of the 'repressive' press law under which (Jordanian journalists) still operate," said a commentator in a European publication on the Middle East. "Or it may be due to the after-effects of

many years of docility, reticence, and even 'repression,' especially during Rifai's second term as prime minister (1985-1989)."

The draft law on press and publications includes so many provisions and regulations that many journalists describe it as "a punishment law." And the official response to such criticism is that there cannot be a "free press without responsibility."

"If the press played an aggressive role in the current 'corruption' episode and asserted its role, it would have set precedents which would have been difficult to be reversed by parliament or the government during the debate on the draft law," said one Jordanian journalist.

"Now, having displayed themselves as covering against personal fears of consequences of crossing someone's path, the Jordanian press has played into the hands of those who would like to muzzle it," added the journalist.

Indeed it was the first time that the Kingdom's media was exposed

to an affair of such a magnitude and political gravity and therefore the journalists were at a loss to know how to handle the issue, some others say.

Another major element also appeared to be considerations of the legal implications of carrying reports which could be deemed as defamatory, particularly that the libel laws of Jordan are as fuzzy if not fatter than those of Western democracies.

The reluctance of Jordanian columnists — with a very few exceptions — to commit themselves into clear positions was very visible in the few commentaries that were published since they left most readers wondering whether the writer supported or opposed the moves to indict Mr. Rifai and two members of his cabinet.

"The media were hesitating and it showed," said Fahed Fanek, one of the few columnists who argued not only in favour of efforts to bring officials to accountability but also for clear charges of "bribery" instead of "error of judgement."

In terms of opinion pieces and commentaries, Dr. Fanek says that his colleagues should have "taken clear positions — for or against the affair — instead of writing ambiguous pieces which left the readers wondering where the writer himself stood."

But Dr. Fanek believes that it was not incompetence as much as bewilderment that led to the shortcomings in the media since there was no precedent to the affair in Jordan and "it was only natural that they did not know how to handle it."

"There is no tradition in the Jordanian press of how to approach such an issue, particularly that some 'important' people were involved and those people could become 'important' again," he added.

The fact that Mr. Rifai issued a statement signalling a comeback is enough reason for chief editors, writers and commentators to justify their refraining from delving into the issue, according to one managing editor of a local daily.

"Remembering Rifai's iron handedness prior to 1989 and the prospect of a comeback is enough to frighten people," he said.

Another reason the managing editor cited was an apathy altogether towards the democratisation process and scepticism that the whole process might be turned back.

"There is fear that at the first major clash between Parliament and the regime there could be a crackdown and the settling of accounts," he said.

One more reason, the managing editor said, is the fact that Mr. Rifai is very close to the regime and that the regime, many people felt or thought, was not very pleased to see the loyal prime minister being humiliated.

"In many ways the Rifai probe is a probe into the regime's past ways and means and any indictment of Rifai would have been an indictment of the system as such," he said.

In the context of news coverage of the affair, Dr. Fanek criticised

what he saw as the reluctance of newspapers to carry in-depth researched articles on the affair to add to the "scant, statistical details that they published — such as how many voted and who voted how — without focusing on the main points and principles that were raised during the debate."

Osama Al Sharif, editor of the English-language weekly Star and former managing editor of Al Dustour, shares Dr. Fanek's belief although he qualifies it further.

"No Jordanian journalist or newspaper has any previous experience with associating a previous prime minister, one of the most powerful at that, with corruption allegations," he said. "They were baffled."

"Editors and writers have been programmed over the decades to follow the official line in everything and suddenly there appeared to be a dramatic shift apparently this was not clearly understood," he added.

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Iraq bent on surviving third year of sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein is urging Iraqis to be more self-sufficient in a move to overcome U.N. sanctions now in their third year.

President Saddam revived the self-sufficiency drive for Iraq's 18 million people in the past week as well as defying the U.S. and United Nations and hammering home claims to Kuwait two years after its invasion.

"He knows sanctions will never be lifted in the foreseeable future so he has to demand more from his people so they don't stop with reconstructing what was destroyed in the Gulf war."

"And as reconstruction makes it feel stronger, Iraq is increasingly turning in on itself, trying to put absolutely everything under its control and rely on no one."

The main steps in the revived self-sufficiency drive so far are orders to increase domestic production and find new ways to revive the economy, a crackdown on profiteering and a cabinet reshuffle.

Official newspapers daily reply the inauguration of factories and reopening of bridges rebuilt with no foreign materials.

In a commentary the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra said on Tuesday U.S. manoeuvres in Kuwait might be psychological warfare against Iraq on top of the Gulf war and U.N. sanctions.

"Iraq withstood all this and is stronger than ever," it said.

Turkish minister says PKK present in Iran

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said on Tuesday separatist Kurdish rebels were launching attacks on Turkey in strength from posts inside Iran.

He said Turkey hoped to reach a security agreement with the Iranian government to prevent the alleged infiltration by the independence-seeking Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas.

"Unfortunately, it is obvious that the PKK is finding shelter on the Iranian side of the border from where they stage raids on villages and gendarme posts in groups of 300 to 500," Mr. Sezgin told Reuters in an interview.

"After they are repulsed by security forces, they take shelter in Iranian posts," he said.

Asked if PKK militants were receiving any help from Iranian border forces, he said: "They probably do."

"I think soon we will hold talks with Iran like those we have held with Syria and explain the situation to our Iranian friends and neighbours. We will seek an agreement like the one we reached with Syria," he said.

Iran has in the past vehemently denied suggestions that PKK rebels had any presence on its territory and has invited the Turkish interior minister to come and

see for himself.

Mr. Sezgin said he might take up the offer. "When the circumstances are favourable, we will make such a visit."

More than 4,300 people have been killed in Turkey since the PKK began its fight for a separate Kurdish state in 1984.

Syrian leaders accused Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin at the weekend that they were implementing promises to stop PKK activities in Syria and Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Mr. Sezgin said he believed the Syrians were sincere in pledging to honour the accord, which he negotiated during a visit to Damascus in April. "They are careful to avoid the image of a country which aids and abets terrorism," he said.

Mr. Sezgin said he could not say for sure whether the Iraqi government was cooperating with the PKK, but said what he called a power vacuum in northern Iraq certainly favoured the rebels.

Turkish planes frequently strike PKK targets across the border in northern Iraq, where Iraqi Kurds opposed to President Saddam Hussein set up a de facto government in June.

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Vassiliou says map changes won't uproot Turkish Cypriots

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou said on Tuesday Turkish Cypriots affected by territorial adjustments accompanying a solution of the Cyprus problem would enjoy a better standard of living than at present.

"Within the framework of a territorial adjustment, nobody is going to become a refugee, a displaced person," he told Reuters in an interview.

"All of them will end up with a better standard of living and better housing conditions than before... they will get help both in housing and in work."

Mr. Vassiliou said Turkish Cypriots who chose to leave areas that would become part of the Greek-Cypriot province would be offered a choice of either going back to the towns and villages in the Greek Cypriot-controlled south that they left after the fighting ended in 1974, or to remain in the Turkish-Cypriot region.

"If they choose to remain in the Turkish-Cypriot federated state, then the federal government will have the responsibility to make sure that adequate housing is built and also... employment conditions created so that none of these persons will suffer," Mr. Vassiliou said.

He said that, after the fighting, about 45,000 Turkish Cypriots voluntarily moved to the north, of whom between 5,000 and 10,000

cent of the total while the Greek Cypriots insist the correct figure, excluding settlers from Turkey, is around 18 per cent.

Under proposals and a map presented to both sides by Dr. Ghali, the Turkish Cypriots would retain about 28 per cent of the territory while giving up the town of Morphou and the surrounding agricultural region as well as several dozen villages.

Mr. Denktaş has said he would agree to reduce the Turkish Cypriot region to "29-plus per cent," but not surrender Morphou.

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Under proposals and a map presented to both sides by Dr. Ghali, the Turkish Cypriots would retain about 28 per cent of the territory while giving up the town of Morphou and the surrounding agricultural region as well as several dozen villages.

Mr. Denktaş has said he would agree to reduce the Turkish Cypriot region to "29-plus per cent," but not surrender Morphou.

Mr. Vassiliou said Turkish Cypriots who chose to leave areas that would become part of the Greek-Cypriot province would be offered a choice of either going back to the towns and villages in the Greek Cypriot-controlled south that they left after the fighting ended in 1974, or to remain in the Turkish-Cypriot region.

"If they choose to remain in the Turkish-Cypriot federated state, then the federal government will have the responsibility to make sure that adequate housing is built and also... employment conditions created so that none of these persons will suffer," Mr. Vassiliou said.

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George Vassiliou

later emigrated to other countries.

In the Morphou area, only some 10,000 to 12,000 Turkish Cypriots would be affected by the proposed territorial adjustments, he said, rejecting Turkish Cypriot arguments that as many as 40,000 would be uprooted.

Mr. Vassiliou said the U.N. secretary-general would continue the Cyprus talks, which began in June and resumed on July 15, until the end of this week.

"This week either there must be a breakthrough or there must be some reckoning," he added.

Dr. Ghali would then have to report to the Security Council, which has been closely following the negotiations.

Mr. Vassiliou declined to speculate what action the council might take in face of a breakdown.

Sudan may take dispute with Egypt to world bodies

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Sudanese diplomat said Wednesday his country may take its border dispute with Egypt to international organisations.

He denied that Sudan was thinking of a military operation to resolve the conflict.

Ezzeddin Hamed, Sudan's Ambassador to Cairo, told a news conference that journalists had misinterpreted comments by Sudanese officials that Sudan was considering means other than bilateral negotiations to end the dispute over Halaib.

"The phrase 'other means' that Sudanese officials mentioned was misinterpreted," Mr. Hamed said. "It only means the possibility of trying to resolve the dispute through regional or international legal means."

In the Sudanese capital Khartoum, the official Sudan News Agency quoted a government official as denying that Sudan had made any threats against Egypt and reaffirmed his country's willingness to resolve the conflict and resolve "the eternal, family and intimate" ties between the two countries.

Mr. Hamed did not specify whether Sudan might want to go to regional organisations like the Arab League and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) or to world bodies like the United Nations or the International Court of Justice based at the Hague, Holland.

Sudan and Egypt held a round of talks on the border dispute last spring and agreed to resume in early summer. But the second round has been delayed several times.

Among the programmes recommended were mine countermeasures training, military officer exchanges and training in U.S. schools, as well as other training programmes.

The United States has offered several programmes with Israel and Egypt, but not with Syria or Iran which are named as supporting "terrorism."

"We concur with Ambassador (April) Glaspie that implementation of low-level, non-lethal military assistance would greatly facilitate developing an improved dialogue with and access to the senior military leadership and the government of Iraq," the Central Command message said.

Ms. Glaspie was later criticised for seeming too conciliatory in a meeting with President Saddam Hussein just before the Iraqi invasion and appearing to tell him that Washington would not intervene.

IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said the paper criticised Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), for meeting with Secretary of State James Baker to seek American "political, economic and moral assistance for bringing down the regime of Saddam Hussein."

The paper, which usually reflects the Tehran government's views, warned Iraqi Kurds against expecting too much from President George Bush's administration, which it said was using the Kurdish issue for election purposes.

"It is a pity if Mr. Talabani truly believes that Mr. Bush would have a change of heart with regards to his predicament," Kayhan said in an editorial. "The Kurds, however, must realise that the U.S. interests in their plight at this time is exploitation of the issue... if Bush has something positive to say about the Kurdish issue, it is only aimed at improving his standing in the election stage."

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Soviet communists aimed at Turkey's army, police

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party trained members of the illegal Turkish Communist Party for clandestine work inside the NATO country's armed forces and police, newly-published documents show.

Once-secret files of the central committee spell out the party's behind-the-scenes role in securing KGB and military intelligence training for 15 Turkish communists in 1989 and 1990.

The course, with all expenses paid by the Soviet party — then headed by Mikhail Gorbachev — covered what the documents blandly describe as "organizational activity... in the army and police and methods of conspiratorial work."

Other documents, all published on Monday in the liberal daily Izvestia, show the extent to which the Soviet communist bureaucracy controlled the banned Turkish party, then headquartered in East Berlin.

In a separate report, the newspaper quoted an official of the Russian security ministry as saying 3.85 million people were tried and convicted for political crimes under communist rule. Of those, 827,995 were sentenced to firing squads.

The new revelations of meddling abroad and the latest death toll from seven decades of Soviet power appeared part of the Russian government's bid to bury the party once and for all.

The state's highest court is considering an appeal to uphold President Boris Yeltsin's ban on the party — imposed after last year's attempted hardline coup against then Soviet President Gorbachev — as an illegal organisation that improperly usurped state power.

According to the published files, Moscow Party bureaucrats ordered changes in the Turkish party's leadership and directed its policies well into 1989, even as Mr. Gorbachev's "new thinking" on easing East-West confrontation was winning converts abroad.

Similar files made available to Reuters last week described party support for Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, including supplies of spy satellite information on movements of the U.S. Sixth Fleet of the Libyan coast.

"If you take away the addresses and titles... then you could easily take the documents as those of an underground crime syndicate made up of like-minded people," Izvestia said in a commentary.

"The (party's) international department divided the world into sectors and in each one there bubbled conspiratorial work," it said.

Throughout, the Soviet party used East German surrogates to control the Turkish Communists, forced into exile by a ban at home.

One internal memo, dated Feb. 25, 1980, called attention to the need for fresh blood at the top of the Turkish party and named three acceptable successors.

Another document directs a complete overhaul of the Turkish party's system of communications, secret couriers and safe houses, as well as investigations of party members freed from Turkish prisons.

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U.S. considered military exchange programmes with Iraq before crisis

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department was considering officer exchange programmes with Iraq's military seven months before Iraq attacked Kuwait and had discussed additional contacts only three months before the August 1990 invasion, documents made public on Tuesday show.

The Bush administration has been criticised by opposition Democrats for its close relationship with Iraq in the months before invasion.

In January 1990, the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff told the U.S. Central Command that the State Department had rejected the command's 1989 recommendation for Iraqi officers to get training in the United States, the documents revealed.

The Joint Chiefs in a Jan. 3, 1990, message told the Central Command: "The State Department does not feel that the U.S. domestic political climate is supportive of increased military relations with Iraq." The command was led at the time by General Norman Schwarzkopf, who later directed the Gulf war.

But a position paper prepared for a meeting of the deputy chiefs of staff on May 25, 1990, said: "Allowing low-level non-lethal military-to-military exchanges (with Iraq) would be a positive

tool for U.S. policy in the region."

"In the past, such access resulted in modified Iraqi behaviour and served the best interests of U.S. policy," the paper said.

The central command pursued those initiatives up until three months before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990.

The command in its 1989 recommendations, suggested that the United States "oppose sanctions aimed solely at Iraq that will reinforce a perception of a one-sided U.S. policy and may result in the expulsion of U.S. embassy personnel." It also suggested that the U.S. government "support expanded low level programmes that would increase U.S. access to Iraqi officials and increase influence."

The documents were released by the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee which is investigating U.S. policy on Iraq before last year's Gulf war.

Many Democrats in congress have accused the Bush administration of ignoring signs that Iraq was going to invade Kuwait and providing it with technical and financial help.

President George Bush in October 1989 issued a secret

directive calling for new initiatives towards Iraq to modify its behaviour and promote stability in the region.

The 1989 Central Command message to the Joint Chiefs of Staff said helping train the Iraqi military could increase U.S. influence and improve relations with Baghdad.

Among the programmes recommended were mine countermeasures training, military officer exchanges and training in U.S. schools, as well as other training programmes.

The United States has offered several programmes with Israel and Egypt, but not with Syria or Iran which are named as supporting "terrorism."

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IDEA membership to benefit children, cultural exchange

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan was accepted as a member of the International Drama in Education Association (IDEA) during the association's first general conference in Portugal between July 20-25.

The conference which was hosted by the Association Portugal Educational Drama (APED) was attended by 400 delegates from various developed and developing nations, including Jordan and Tunisia, according to Edwina Issa from the Jordanian National Group for Drama in Education, Children's Theatre and Puppetry.

Ms. Issa told the Jordan Times that she submitted two papers to the conference held in the city of Porto. One tackled the cultural history of Jordan and the other featured the development of drama in education in the Kingdom. In her views, Jordan's affiliation to this world association will benefit the country's children. She said that membership in this association can bring about exchanges of ideas and cultures and means of developing drama in education that can best serve the

local environment and Jordanian children.

According to Ms. Issa, the aim of the conference in Portugal was primarily to establish an international group to represent the IDEA. The delegates discussed various aspects related to the association, membership, activities and others.

She said that the delegates included professors, lecturers, teachers, authors and notables from the field. Messages of goodwill and ideology were read at the opening ceremony from worldwide names in the fields, she added.

"I was invited to represent Jordan by IDEA's executive committee in my capacity as member of the Jordanian National Group for Drama in Education which was established in 1989," said Ms. Issa.

She said that she presented a ten point list of ideas which were all taken into consideration. Among other things, she demanded that the Kingdom be represented at future world conferences and that there be an exchange of expertise and resources in field of drama in education in line with IDEA's constitution and amendments.



Participants are soon to begin working, and playing, at Al Sabileh project

Al Sabileh project to begin

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Sabileh, a voluntary project initiated in 1991 as part of the Crown Prince Hassan Award, will be held this year from Aug. 18 to Sept. 14 with 25 participants taking part.

The project covers the kingdom from north to south and encompasses social work, scientific research, adventures and expeditions to archaeological and noteworthy places in different parts of the country.

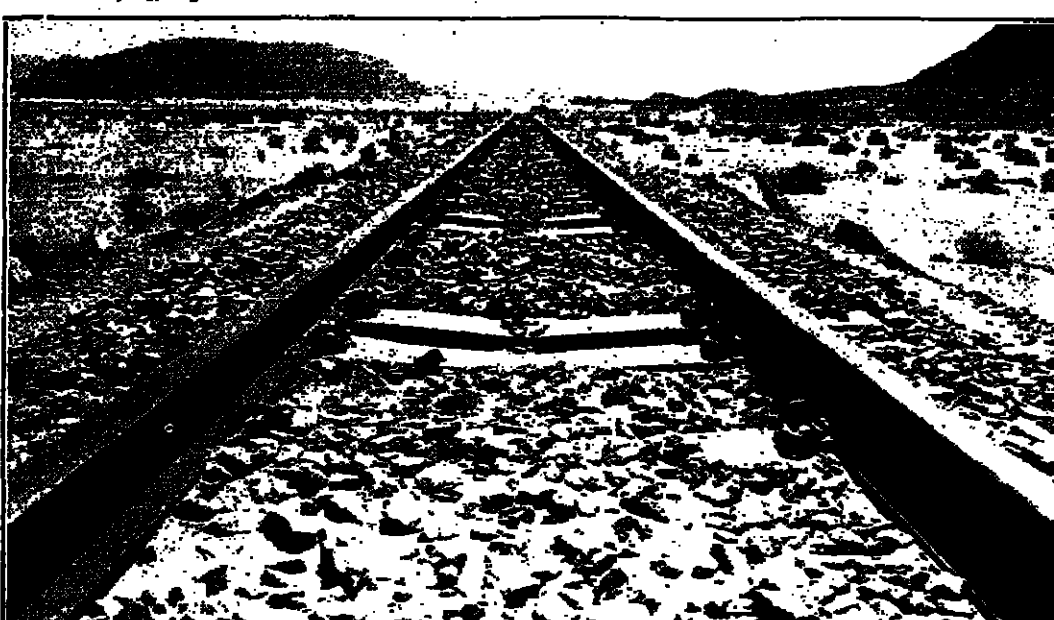
As part of their support for the project, participants are holding a fund-raising bazaar on Friday, Aug. 7 at the Ibrahimieh schools.

The bazaar will include oriental items, food, games, treasure-hunt and fortunetelling. After the bazaar participants in Al Sabileh will have 10 days before they get down to work in their voluntary project.

All participants are between 17-25 years of age and there are certain conditions which govern the choice of participants — all must be Jordanian nationals, having passed the general health examination and fitness tests.

Participants in this year's project will actively be taking part in maintenance of schools, building retaining walls and playgrounds, irrigation projects, mountain climbing, hiking, diving, skiing, canoeing, map-reading, visiting historical and archaeological sites, horticulture, collecting botanical and geological samples, and various other activities.

Participants will be camping out throughout their month-long project which will take them from Amman to Mafrag, Um Al Jimal, Al Azraq, Halabat, Al Harrah desert, Amra and Amman, Wadi Rum, Wadi Finan, Al Ghai and Aqaba.



PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE:

Life spanning to the infinite where these two rails meet, is caught in its most diverse instances in the photographs from Jordan, Syria and Egypt that Siham El Mufti is

displaying Thursday, Aug. 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Phoenix Exhibition Hall. Funny or sad, real or absurd, the images immortalised in the photographs are loyal representations of life in its complexity.

Committee to design framework to endorse political parties law

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat are holding a meeting today with the heads and members of law committees in their respective houses in order to agree on a general framework by which to endorse the political parties law.

The meeting, to be attended by heads of parliamentary blocs and the two houses rapporteurs, is also expected to name a date in the coming week for a joint session dedicated to discussions of the political parties draft law.

Mr. Lawzi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting Thursday aims at reaching a common understanding on the issue and to define the objectives of the two Houses.

The announcement came one day after the Senate decided to call a joint session with the Lower House after failing to agree on the draft law on political parties. The law committees of the two houses met earlier this week but failed to work out a compromise. A noticeable absence in Thursday's meeting will be Hussein Mjalli, head of the Lower House's law committee who resigned Wednesday. Mjalli also announced that he was withdrawing from a parliamentary committee investigation the corruption cases involving former senior

government officials.

Before resigning, Mjalli was quoted as saying that he did not see any problem in getting the law endorsed as passed by the Lower House.

The fate of the law will be decided by a two third majority among those attending the session attended by the 40 member Senate and 80-member Lower House.

The Senate suggested amendments to the political parties immunity against arbitrary measures by the government, a ban on political activities in schools and imposition of penalties.

In his statement to Petra Wednesday, Mr. Lawzi said that the Upper House wanted to ban schools and educational institutions from political activities because the law had fixed the ages of those who can be involved in political parties at 18 and provided for excluding students under 18 years of age from any political activity.

Mr. Lawzi said that Thursday's meeting would be yet another attempt to defuse the situation and end the differences in views through dialogue. He said both houses are keen on the endorsement and final approval of this important law because he said people deeply believe of the need to see political parties in Jordanian life.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.

Bazaar

★ Bazaar organised by the Crown Prince Award office and the adventures of Al Sabaleh '92 at the Ibrahimiyah School, the 5th Circle, opposite the Gondola Hotel on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip

★ Field Trip organised by the Friends of the Archaeology to Dohaleh, an Agricultural settlement 25 km southeast of Irbid and 4 km south-west of Nu'ameh. It includes remains from the late Roman/early Byzantine period through the Umayyad and Ayyubid/Mamluk periods. Departure on Friday at 9:00 a.m. from Amra Hotel parking lot by bus or private cars.

New rules to be introduced to keep finances in check

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh Wednesday voiced the government's support for a parliamentary committee report on the work of the Audit Bureau in the from 1987-1990. He said that stricter measures would be introduced to ensure government department's full control of finances.

Addressing a Cabinet-attended Lower House of Parliament session, the minister praised the Audit Bureau's drive to control financial matters in these departments. He noted that the Finance Ministry will apply the parliament's recommendations to ensure better control.

Government departments owe the Finance Ministry JD531 million. Royal Jordanian, the national airline, and the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) also owe JD117 million turned over from last year, and the Finance Ministry is trying to collect these funds, noted Mr. Jaraneh.

He said that in working out the 1993 budgets for the independent government departments, the Finance Ministry will consider all the accumulated sums. The parliamentary committee's statement, initially reviewed in the previous House's sessions, called on the government office to promptly respond to the requests of the Audit Bureau.

Noting weakness in public administration, the committee said qualified personnel should be entrusted with the task of

controlling finances of these government institutions.

Echoing the committee's ideas, Deputy Salameh Ghweiri said that the Audit Bureau, as well as those in charge of finances should have vast experience and qualifications. "All that which we now call corruption could not have occurred had the Audit Bureau been empowered to take drastic action," said the deputy.

Deputy Hamzeh Mansour went a step further, demanding that each case related to mismanagement of public funds be referred to the Prosecutor General's Office. He said that the Audit Bureau's reports should be regarded as a criteria and that any person found negligent should be removed from a senior office.

Mansour said that the House should give the government until the beginning of the 1993 fiscal year to flush out those involved in financial cases and refer them to trial. He also demanded that the government be given until the end of 1992 to work out regulation and draft laws that would ensure sound and efficient systems protecting public interests.

Mansour said that all officials failing to respond to the Audit Bureau's queries should be held responsible for their actions.

His colleague Abdul Hafiz Allawi demanded that the Audit Bureau be given an effective mechanism to do its work efficiently while deputy Abdul Salam Freihat noted that weaknesses in public administration gave rise to

the corruption cases and mismanagement of public funds.

Hisham Al Sharari demanded that the Finance Ministry reorganise its collection system to ensure collection of state funds.

Another topic on the House's agenda was the amendment of the telecommunications (TCC) law. The amendment relates to the addition of a clause that would give legal ground for the TCC to conclude investment agreements with the public and private sector.

The TCC is finding it increasingly difficult to finance various projects, according to the reasons given for the amendment.

Minister of Posts and Communications Jamal Saraireh told the House that the amendment to the law could open the door for investment in the telecommunications field, particularly outside the Amman area. The Ministry of Posts and Communications is in need of investing JD500 million in projects that would provide basic services without resorting to borrowing, said the minister.

The House decided to refer the TCC question to its law committee before the session broke up. Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat announced that a session will be held Monday evening to continue discussion on the Audit Bureau reports and that another session is to be held Sunday to examine new laws on press and publications.

King congratulates Jordan's bronze medal winner

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Wednesday a cable to Jordanian athlete Ammar Fahd to congratulate him on winning a bronze medal in the Tae-Kwon-Do Championship in Barcelona.

King Hussein expressed hope that his win would be an incentive for Jordanian athletes to accomplish more in sports. "As we congratulate you over this victory, which is a win for all Jordanians and which raised the Jordanian flag very high, we hope that this would be an incentive for you and all of your colleagues in sports fields to achieve all your aspirations," King Hussein said in his cable.

Fahd won the bronze after defeating an Iranian player 3-2 and

losing to an American 3-2.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a similar cable to members of the Jordanian Tae-Kwon-Do team in Barcelona. The Crown Prince said this win was a result of the athletes continued efforts and perseverance. He said in the cable, "I received with great pleasure news of our player Ammar Fahd's winning a bronze medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. I congratulate you all over this precious win, which raised the Jordanian flag high in this great international sports event. This honourable result was a result of your strenuous efforts and continued perseverance by all the team members and up to the expectations."

Prince Hassan visits Armed Forces HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Wednesday the Armed Forces general headquarters where he was received by chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of staff of the land forces, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff assistants and the inspector general. Prince Hassan had a meeting with Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the armed forces. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

JDTC to participate in 20,000 buyer trade fair in New York

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Design and Trade Centre JDTC will participate in the New York international fair opening Sunday to display Jordanian handicraft products, according to the centre's director Fitna Kalaji.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ms. Kalaji said that the five-day fair is considered one of the largest international trade shows and takes place in February and August each year. Such an event is normally attended by 20,000 buyers, she added.

Ms. Kalaji said that two of the export sales section of JDTC will exhibit in the fair a variety of Jordanian handicraft products which include different lines of embroideries and carpets of traditional and new designs.

She described the results of participating in international fairs, with the aim of marketing for the Jordanian handicraft products, as satisfactory. Through these fairs we have so far received orders that will keep producers cooperating with us from different parts of the country busy until the end of this year, Ms. Kalaji added.

JDTC has recently participated in the Atlanta International Carpet and Rug Fair and will display an exhibit at the MIC Home Show in Paris next month.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation established JDTC in 1990 as

part of its national handicraft development project to revitalize handmade products through a business-oriented approach that focuses on market expansion. The primary objective of the project are to create jobs, increase income and to upgrade the quality of life of many families through working in the handicraft production field.

The centre includes a training section for product development, a wholesale showroom and an export sales section. Its handmade products are locally available at hotel gift shops, the duty free shop and tourist sites.

Radio broadcasts on Jordan to mark King's 40-year rule

AMMAN (Petra) — Monte Carlo Radio Thursday starts broadcasting in Arabic and French a series of programmes featuring Jordan's economy and tourism.

The programme will continue until Tuesday Aug. 11, marking the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The programme features interviews with Ministers Abdullah Ensour of Industry and Trade and Yamil Hikmat of Tourism and Antiquities. It also meets with Ministers of State, and Youth and Director General of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation Inaam Al Mufti. Jordanian poets Abdul Rahim Omar, Khaled Mahadin and Ibrahim Nasrallah are also interviewed.

Meanwhile, the Amman Chamber of Industry announced Wednesday that it was planning to hold an industrial fair in the governorate of Mafrag on Nov. 14. Chamber president Khalidoun Abu Hassan discussed with Mafrag governor Mahmoud Al Sari arrangements for this event.

The chamber held a similar fair at Mutu University near Karak on the King's birthday last year. It also organised other fairs in Irbid and other areas to familiarise the public on national industrial products.

King Hussein's accession to the throne's anniversary falls on Tuesday when all government departments and public institutions will remain closed.

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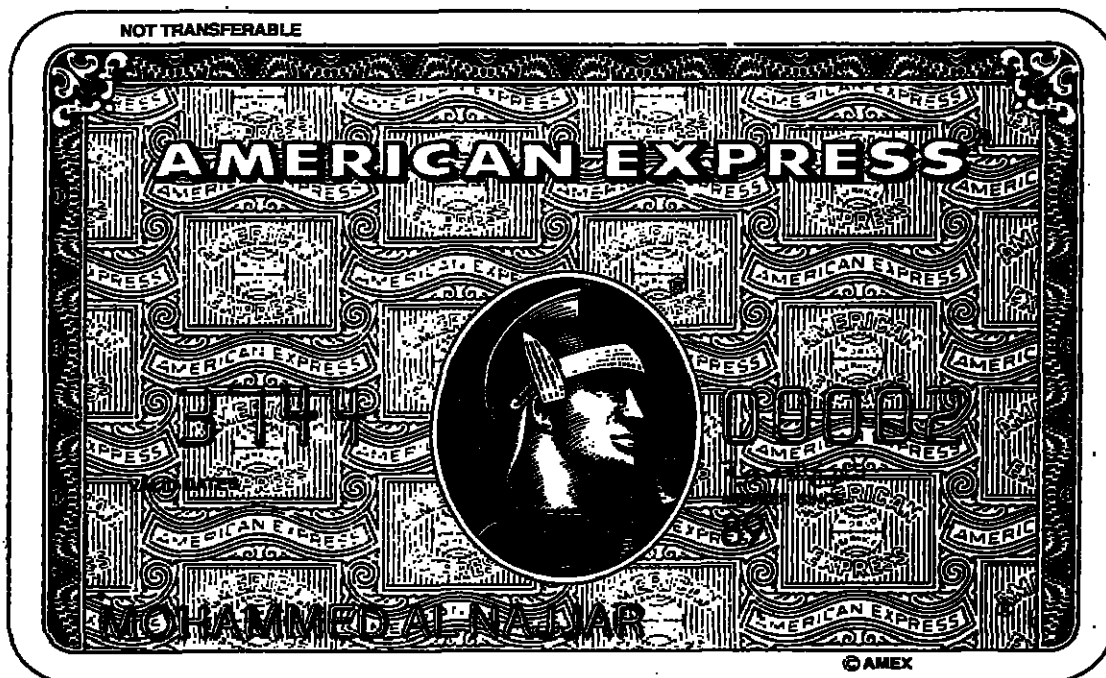
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Questions for new world order

THE CONFIRMATION of the reports that Serbia is maintaining detention camps where thousands of Bosnians and Croats have been tortured and slaughtered adds a new horrific dimension to the conflict in Yugoslavia which is already exacerbated by the infamous "ethnic cleansing" policy being brutally applied by Serbians against Bosnian Muslims especially. These revelations have yet to provoke effective international response commensurate with the size and extent of the problem in the war-torn country. Washington, which usually carries the banner of human rights and spearheads the crusade against human rights abuses, now finds itself unable to take effective measures against the daily atrocities being perpetrated essentially by Serbs against their fellow countrymen, the Bosnians and Croats. All that U.S. State Department spokesman Richard A. Boucher had to say on his government's own independent confirmation of the existence of the Serbian detention camps was to express his country's "deep concern" at the corroborated news and to condemn the Serb's "ethnic cleansing" policy. Boucher effectively ruled out even a U.N. Security Council meeting on the deteriorating situation in former Yugoslavia not to mention any meaningful military action to put an end to the ethnic fighting. London has followed religiously on the footsteps of Washington on the subject by rejecting out of hand the deployment of its military might to arrest the carnage between the various ethnic and religious factions in former Yugoslavia. Britain's Prime Minister John Major declared Monday that "this is no time to think in terms of a military solution," as if suggesting that all the killing and butchery that went on already in that broken country are not enough justification to show a Western resolve on par with the resolve manifested during the Gulf crisis. As the neo-Nazi ethnic cleansing operation being conducted by Serbia before the very eyes of Europe is so abhorrent and revolting, the international community expects the major powers to intervene more forcefully to nullify it with all the might that they can muster. On the U.N. Security Council turf, whatever happened to the notorious decision taken by the Council's summit earlier on this year in which it was solemnly declared that henceforth the council will intervene on major human rights violations on the strength of the proposition advanced and adopted by the council's permanent members that there is an organic link between peace and human rights? And whatever happened to the stamina of the Bush administration to rise to the human rights challenge posed by Baghdad's human rights record against its people in the south and north by threatening to use its air and sea power against Iraqi forces operating in these two theatres of operation? Why all of a sudden the U.S. president has become thick skinned when faced with the worst human rights violations in contemporary times? Even U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali seems also to have fumbled on this subject when he suggested that U.N. effective actions in Bosnia must not be at the expense of international efforts in Somalia where hundreds of thousands are dying from starvation. As tragic as the human rights situation in Somalia and elsewhere in the world, this is no time to think in terms of North-South perspectives when human rights violations occur anywhere in the world. The subdued and ineffective international reaction to the Bosnian situation has got to be upgraded and rendered more potent and serious. If Washington and London are having cold feet on the need to call for an emergency meeting of the Security Council, the other nations of the world must step in and fill the moral vacuum that has seeped into the new international order.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

RUSSIA'S DECISION to send a number of naval units to the Gulf region to help enforce Washington's hand in imposing its sanctions on Iraq came under strong criticism from Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Boris Yeltsin's decision to send the Russian fleet to the Gulf is pathetic, giving rise to ridicule but one that should also be strongly condemned, said the daily. Instead of searching for bread and medicine for his people and instead of looking for ways to help restore dignity to the Russian nation Mr. Yeltsin has chosen to do service to his pay master in Washington and offer his services in the starvation of the Iraqi people, said the daily. Mr. Yeltsin, after Gorbachev, has sold out his country's honour and dignity to the United States for a handful of dollars that can bring back no dignity or self-esteem to the Russians, and has chosen to commit atrocities in addition to giving the Americans proper support for their new adventures in the Gulf, added the paper. By committing this act, Moscow is stabbing its Arab friends in the back and by giving away its military secrets to Washington it is transforming itself into a slave to the Americans, the paper continued. We do not expect Yeltsin to take a courageous step vis-a-vis the Gulf issue simply because this leader has turned against all values and principles and failed his own people and nation, the paper said. It said there will be no difference to the situation if another weak or strong nation joined the unholy alliance against the Arabs as such a service is only one form of subjugation to Washington and not a form of assistance to its aggression.

THE FLIGHT of the Somali people who are dying of starvation and the civil strife is discussed by Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Reports have said that airports are piled with food supplies sent in by voluntary and humanitarian organisations to the starving people of Somalia, but they cannot reach the destitute people because of the war, the writer said. He said that the reports note that it is a matter of stationing some 500 U.N. troops to ensure the safe distribution of these relief supplies. If the situation continues, he said, at least 1.5 million people will die of famine in the coming weeks.

Political upheavals usher in new terrorists

By Clare Pedrick



Paul Wilkinson

LONDON — Thirty years ago, long before hijackings or car and airplane bombings became an unpalatable fact of modern life, Paul Wilkinson, a young officer serving in Britain's Royal Air Force, began studying what he saw as a worrying new trend — the use of terror tactics by some groups to achieve political ends. The more he probed, the more fascinated he became and when he left the RAF, Prof. Wilkinson decided to dedicate himself full-time to what he forecast would be a growing threat. He wrote books and articles that at the time were considered "unusual," he says. "At that time, no-one was very much interested or writing very much on the subject."

It was the eve of the 1970s, the decade that was to see an explosion of terrorism worldwide. Suddenly, says Prof. Wilkinson, "it became clear that you needed people to study this phenomenon because it was there, whether you liked it or not." Today, Paul Wilkinson is considered to be one of the world's foremost experts on the subject. Now aged 55, he divides his time between London, where he is director of the Research Institute for Conflict and Terrorism, and Scotland, where he is professor of international relations at St. Andrew's University and runs a graduate programme on security and terrorism studies, a course that attracts students from all over the world. Prof. Wilkinson also travels widely, much sought after to advise anti-terrorist forces around the globe. He spoke to World News Link about new developments in international terror groups and tactics in the 1990s.

— How did the fall of Communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe affect terrorism? Has it produced new trends or groups which will be different from what we have been used to in the past?

— I think there have been two major factors. First, it (the fall of Communism) has suddenly meant the end of an important source of state sponsorship and support for international terrorism. Not just the Soviet Union, but all the Warsaw Pact states at some stage became involved in supporting (leftist) "terrorist" groups. The Hungarians, supported Carlos (real name Ilic Ramirez Sanchez, the notorious Venezuelan-born terrorist used extensively by extremist Palestinian groups, now believed to be living in Syria), the Poles supported Abu Nidal (real name Sabri Al Bannah, Palestinian hardliner, held responsible for

dozens of attacks, including the killings of several associates of PLO leader Yasser Arafat), the East Germans gave backing to the Red Army Faction (RAF, extreme left-wing West German terrorist group) and there is evidence that various groups which were helped with weapons and explosives provided by the Czechs.

That has suddenly disappeared, and that must be good news. But on the other hand, because of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the democratisation process in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, many ethnic groups which previously had their claims for self-determination suppressed are now challenging for a place in the scene; that has brought some terrorist violence and in some cases that has escalated rather rapidly into full-scale civil war. That has happened in the case of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the conflict in parts of Georgia and of course Yugoslavia, and there is a danger of further conflict in other parts of the Balkans.

Another aspect of this democratisation process which has been rather overlooked is that when you are busy setting up a democracy and introducing a new constitution and legal system, it is a moment of relative disarray, so there are grave problems of criminality in these countries and terrorism is one of the things that can rear its head in a situation where the criminal justice system is weakened. I think that is a great danger which the terrorism groups are well aware of.

— Could you give some examples of terrorist activities in the former Soviet bloc?

— There was the failed assassination attempt by the Armenian

group ASALA on the Turkish ambassador in Budapest in December 1991. Nothing had been heard of them for a very long time. On December 28 a car bomb exploded in Hungary near a bus carrying Soviet Jewish immigrants who were leaving for Israel, injuring several of the people guarding the bus. No claim was made, but there have been several fundamentalist groups threatening this kind of action. There has also been activity by a Sikh terrorist group, which claimed an assassination attempt on a senior Indian diplomat in Bucharest in August last year. Their target was a former director-general of police in the Punjab. That attack had a sequel when Sikh extremists in India attacked a Romanian diplomat, demanding the release of two Sikh terrorists detained after the Bucharest attempt.

— Are we going to see more terrorist attacks in this part of the world in the years to come?

— These countries are vulnerable, and surprise, we are finding that international terrorism is cropping up in Eastern Europe just as it did in the West. I believe it is almost inevitable in a pluralist society. When you become more democratic, you get more terrorism. The state system was a kind of state terrorism, bottling down dissidents and opposition. Some groups will exploit the new freedom, as they have done in the West.

— What are Western European forces of law and order doing to help combat the problem in the East?

— Terrorist movements tend to operate where they know they can get away with it most effectively. The police system is heavily over-stressed in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe where there are high rates of crime and increasing problems with drug trafficking and smuggling and fraud. Western authorities are helping bilaterally and through several other international fora, including Interpol, and I think it is important that they work closely together to give the "minimum" help to the new democracies.

— It has been said that ideological terrorism, especially extreme left-wing terrorism so widespread in the 1970s and 1980s, is on the wane now that communism has been seen to fail and that terrorist groups which have territorial ambitions are the real

threat. To what extent is this true?

— Ideological terrorism is on the slippery slope throughout Europe. That has been seen most clearly in Germany, when the Red Army Faction produced that extraordinary communique proposing a ceasefire earlier this year (the letter, sent by the RAF to the German government in April, suggested an amnesty and effectively signalled the intentions of one of Europe's most feared and deadly terror groups to cease its activities). Admittedly, they wanted certain conditions, but nevertheless it came from their own initiative, without any pressure or suggestion from the authorities, and that indicates a sense of the futility and irrelevance felt by many of these groups. They are marginalised and no longer a force to be reckoned with. The same goes for the Red Brigades in Italy, Action Directe in France, the CCC in Belgium, FB25 in Portugal and almost everywhere you care to look. There are some exceptions. The 17th of November group in Greece is still a thorn in the side of the Greek government and the Turkish group Dev Sol is still active.

— Which terrorist groups now pose the gravest threat in Europe?

— What remains are the separatist groups of which the IRA (Irish Republican Army, which seeks home rule for Northern Ireland) is by far and away the most dangerous, and ETA (the Basque separatist group), comes a close second. The IRA is militarily very strong. They have a great deal of firearms and explosives, thanks to the generosity of Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qadhafi who has recently given a bit of information (to the British intelligence services) does not mean an end to the IRA. The stuff has already arrived and is being used. Only a small fraction has been discovered. In that sense, they are still very strong, but in the political sense, they have been weakened, because they are increasingly estranged from popular support, on both sides of the border. It is highly significant that the Provisional Sinn Féin (the political wing of the IRA) lost their Belfast seat at the last (June) parliamentary elections.

(Editor's note: In June, the Tripoli government gave to British intelligence officials the names of up to 20 top IRA terrorists trained in special camps in Libya

in the use of explosives, detonators, timers, a wide range of small arms and modern terror tactics. The Libyans also gave British MI5 officials details of multi-million dollar support for the IRA over the past two decades and admitted supplying a massive arsenal of arms, including at least 10 tonnes of Semtex, the Czech-manufactured explosive substance widely used in car and airplane bombings because it cannot be detected by most security machines).

— Do you believe that Col. Qadhafi has really ended support for the various terrorist groups he backed throughout the 1970s and 1980s and hence, as he has claimed, dismantled the camps where terrorists from Europe and the Middle East were trained?

— It is too early to say whether Col. Qadhafi is serious. But in any case, his military weapons support for the IRA, and especially with Semtex, was on such a scale that it is certain that they will be dangerous for a very long time ahead. There is no evidence that he has stopped funding terrorist groups and providing diplomatic support through his network that as far as one can see still exists in many different countries.

— What changes and developments do you see in the Middle East?

— I think there are two significant changes. First, there is the much more serious, escalatory character of the relationship between the Hizbollah (Shiite Muslim extremists based in southern Lebanon) and Israel. It is now a real all-out conflict at various levels — the shelling of Hizbollah bases in Lebanon by the Israelis and the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires earlier this year which was the most destructive act of terrorism to be seen anywhere in the past 12 months. I think we are going to see more trouble in that form because the Hizbollah is still firmly committed to eliminating what they call non-Islamic forces from Lebanon and they are still able to look to Iran for moral and considerable physical support, and therefore I think the situation is still quite dangerous.

As regards the Palestinian groups, I think there is a very real threat that rejectionist groups which are disillusioned with the peace talks, or which were hostile to the peace talks even before they started — especially the fundamentalist groups — will threaten terrorism against those

who involve themselves in the talks; they will seek by violence a different kind of strategy to end the continuing Israeli occupation of the occupied territories. Unlike (peace delegation members like) Hanan Ashrawi, the hard-line rejectionists are determined to see the destruction of Israel and the setting up of a full-scale secular independent Palestine. There is no real reconciliation between the more moderate pragmatic Palestinians, who would settle for a mini-state, and the maximalists.

— Is there any evidence to suggest a change in terrorist techniques and strategies? Can we expect to see more airline bombings, or will future tactics bring surprises?

— There is no evidence to suggest that airplane sabotage bombings have gone out of favour. We need to remain very vigilant in our measures to prevent that if we can. I think the other weapons — high explosive bombs used in trucks and cars — those used in Beirut — will continue because of the availability of the materials and the bomb-makers' ruthlessness and willingness to kill indiscriminately in order to capture headlines and cause intimidation and disruption. But there could also be a new source. The really worrying thing is that terrorist groups might secure — either through state sponsorship or because of the disruption in the Soviet Union — black market weapons of mass destruction. I think perhaps chemical weapons would be the most likely. Some former military people or scientists might be willing to cooperate in supplying them and there is a worry that expertise is up for sale as well.

There is already evidence of the disappearance of quite large numbers of weapons across the borders of the former Soviet Union, and I'm not talking about AK-47 machine guns. People do not realise the extent to which there has been a collapse in these countries. Before (the birth of the Soviet empire), many of them were ridden with banditry and tribal conflict, and that has re-emerged as the natural mode of conflict and gun-running — now that the empire has collapsed. People are desperate for money and desperate to make their way, now that the Soviet defence system has sunk into the sand. I think it is a real worry, and I do not think that nearly enough is being done quickly enough — World News Link.

Government scored points

(Continued from page 1)

"What matters is that they followed democratic practices and allowed all forms of criticism against itself to be aired through a state-owned media."

However, it was not the first time that Jordan Television screened footage from Parliament sessions during which deputies levelled harsh, direct and indirect attacks against the executive authority, particularly the vote-of-confidence sessions.

Atif, another taxi driver who said he voted Brotherhood in the 1989 elections, believes that the Islamists gained more than the government in the "corruption case" affair, regardless of its failure to achieve the objective of indicting the three former officials.

"The political forces in the House were too strong for the Brotherhood as it was clear from the speeches of many deputies," Atif said. "But if you go to the Amman suburbs you will find that there was and still is the desire of the people to see everyone punished for their misuse of office while in power," added the bearded taxi-driver, echoing the addresses of his political mentors in Parliament.

The media impact was highly significant in favour of the government, according to Dr. Issam Musa, head of the Mass Communications and Journalism Department at Yarmouk University. Notwithstanding any political consideration, "the government has reaffirmed its total commitment to democratic practices through deeds," said Dr. Musa.

Suleiman Youssef, a professional translator, believes that "there had to be some kind of deal" between the government and the Islamists over the official coverage of the House sessions under which both made political mileage and credibility to varying degrees.

everyone, including all political groups in Parliament.

"We were not and are not under any instruction from anyone outside Jordan Television to change or shift anything," he added. "We, as a Jordanian television station, are performing its job, with decisions taken from the news department. It is our standing policy and there has been no changes whatsoever."

According to sources, journalists and staff at the government-controlled television and radio are under "a no-holds-barred" instructions. "Our policy is not to block information from people but to let people have information and all of it," said one staff member who declined to be identified.

The source admitted that "this indeed is a dramatic shift from the policies that we were implementing in the form of orders given to us years ago."

"I cannot but see a drastic change in the official approach," said Youssef Ayed, a grocer, when asked what he thought of the television coverage of the House sessions. "I do not know yet whether it is for real, but if I was to judge from the corruption case affair, I would say it is indeed real."

Mohammad Akram, also a taxi driver, said he found "it strange that the government, including the prime minister, sitting in Parliament listening to attacks levelled against the Cabinet, and on television at that."

"It was bizarre: How could any Jordanian hope to hear such criticism and attack against former prime ministers and ministers?" he said. "But as things went further I think it was clear that the government was neutral and willing to go along with whatever the deputies decided."

"I think that is the way it should have been," he added. "Why blame anyone else but our own deputies who failed to perform?" he asked. Referring to the rejection of motions to indict Mr. Rifai and Mr. Odeh.

The issue is no longer just Saddam

Some Arabs in the Gulf favour ethnic breakup of Iraq

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

KUWAIT CITY — "Kuwaitis would eat up any Iraqi alive if they caught one," Abdul Aziz Houty, a Kuwaiti driver, said in a conversation about the depth of hatred towards the former occupiers.

Two years after the invasion of Kuwait, such raw sentiments are giving way to arguments in several Arab countries of the Gulf region that peace and stability will not return just with the death or removal of President Saddam Hussein.

A conviction is emerging among Saudi and Kuwaiti leaders that Iraq and the Iraqi people themselves are the source of instability in the Gulf, where Iraq started two wars in a decade — in 1980 against Iran and 1990 against Kuwait.

Kuwaiti and Saudi officials now argue in private and sometimes in public that the partition of Iraq into several entities — Shiites in the south, Kurds in the north and Sunnis in the centre — may be the key to neutralising a country whose population is viewed as aggressive.

Saudi and Kuwaiti officials cite the refusal of Iraqis to acknowledge that Kuwait does not belong to them and the lack of remorse for the brutal behaviour of Iraqi troops during the occupation.

"Iraqis are the only people that can eat a sandwich standing under a hanged man," said Sheikh Ali Fahd Salem Sabah, one of the handful of members of the Kuwaiti ruling family who took part in the resistance against Iraqi occupation, and who was taken prisoner.

Comments like that reflect a mistrust not only of the Iraqis but also to some extent of Arabs from outside the Gulf region, many of whom failed to come to Kuwait's defence in word or deed after the invasion.

It is a sentiment that is pervasive in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and most other rich Arab countries on the Gulf, despite ritual assertions that the dispute is with Saddam Hussein, not the people.

Saudi and Kuwaiti officials complain that even Iraqis opposed to Mr. Saddam refuse to acknowledge the sovereignty of Kuwait.

The notion that a partitioned Iraq might be less of a menace to its neighbours than the country that exists has also been reinforced by broad changes in the policies of the West and Saudi Arabia.

In March 1991, when uprisings in Iraq's Shiite-dominated southern region and Kurdish northern region threatened to partition the country days after the Gulf war ceasefire, the United States, at the urging of Saudi Arabia, halted its victorious military offensive.

Saudi leaders feared that if the Shiite rebellion succeeded, Iran would come to dominate the people of southern Iraq, posing a new threat of instability on the Arabian Peninsula itself, rivaling

the threat of Baghdad. For its part, the United States seemed to prefer a change of regime in Baghdad that would keep the country unified under a leader other than Mr. Saddam.

But since then, the United States, Britain and France have prevented Baghdad from reasserting its control over much of the Kurdish region in northern Iraq, enabling leaders there to hold elections to choose a Kurdish parliament this spring.

A meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and the Iraqi opposition leaders last week, including Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis, reinforced an impression here that the United States had accepted their demands for autonomy.

In February, in a major change of policy, Saudi Arabia invited a leader of the Iranian-supported Shiite opposition in the south, Ayatollah Mohammad Bakri Hakimi, to visit Riyadh, where he was received by King Fahd, signalling the fading of Saudi fears of Iranian-dominated movement in southern Iraq.

A senior Saudi intelligence official, who spoke in a Paris interview about this evolving position, said Saudi Arabia was less concerned now about the impact a breakup of Iraq's 17 million people would have.

"This possibility may in fact be a better solution than the present situation," the official said.

Echoing what appears to be wide sentiment among Kuwaitis, the Saudi official said a majority of the Iraqi "continue to believe that Kuwait belongs to them."

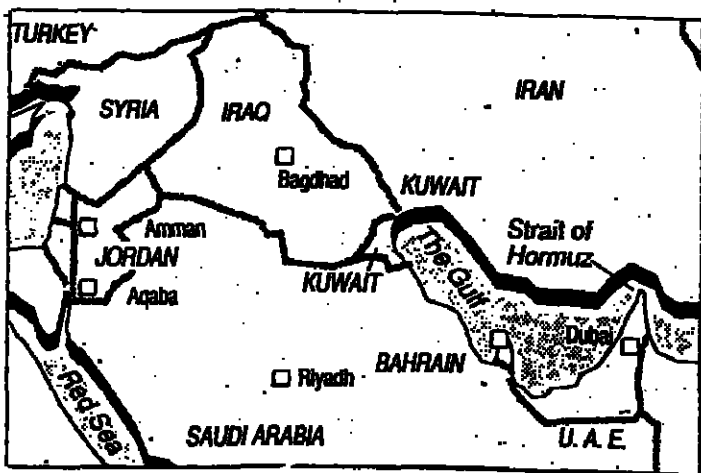
He argued that the attempt to annex Kuwait had a precedent in 1961, when the Iraqi government then in power asserted sovereignty over Kuwait after Britain granted it independence.

What we need to do is what the Americans did in Japan, and Germany after World War II," the Saudi official said. "We must go into Iraq and change the whole setup, the whole mentality, including the social structure of that country which permits dictators like Saddam to resurface there with regularity every 20 years or so."

"To do that," he said, "we may need several small entities to deal with instead of attempting to preserve one Iraqi nation."

The enormous oil well felt towards Iraq in Kuwait, as well as in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, also has an economic explanation. As major oil producers, Saudi Arabia and these other conservative which ranked as one of the world's top oil exporters before the invasion of Kuwait, to be kept out of world markets as long as possible. The markets is saturated, and prices are generally weak.

If Iraq, which is now banned from exporting oil by the United Nations, returned to pumping and selling its crude oil, world prices would fall, cutting into the income of other producers — International Herald Tribune.



قوات المقاومة العراقية

Jabra Ibrahim Jabra — constantly taming the lust for writing

By Ica Waibek
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "I might be among few Arab idealists who think that talents should stay at home and contribute to the building of the nation and the expansion of its vision," says Arab art critic, poet and novelist Jabra Ibrahim Jabra.

Mr. Jabra, very active and involved in myriad of cultural activities, was in Amman last week in his capacity as a literary critic and poet, participating in the Jerash Festival.

Born in Bethlehem, in 1920, Mr. Jabra, who studied English literature in prestigious colleges and universities (Exeter, Harvard, Cambridge), went to Baghdad in 1948 "for nine months" to teach and stayed for 44 years.

Still living in Baghdad, Mr. Jabra travelled quite extensively over the years either as a lecturer to various universities in the world or as head of international juries of art and theatre festivals.

That, his participation in Arab and international literary, artistic and cultural activities, and his own literary endeavours (Mr. Jabra does not only write, he also translates into Arabic — so far about 30 books), give this erudite man little, if any, time for leisure.

So, between rushing for one or other activity the impeccably dressed "professor" explains in his flawless English the general shift in the Arab poetry from — traditionalist to modernist.

It entails a move not only in form but in content too. The verse is no more divided into two halves; and each line is no more carrier of a meaning. In modern Arab poetry, Mr. Jabra says, the meaning carries on and on, developed in each subsequent verse, until, at the end of the stanza, the concept is finally formed and delivered.

An artist himself, Mr. Jabra paints and plays music besides being an art critic.

But his artistic career is basically that of a writer. "Recently I've written a lot of poetry. After not writing for three years, it came back to me in a terrific spate."

The poems, in Arabic, are gathered in four collections. A new collection of poems in English is to come out soon in the U.S.

"Writing gives me a great pleasure, but a tormenting kind of pleasure. It keeps me busy day and night," says Mr. Jabra, whose latest translation of his own poem, which

carries the title *My Demon And I*, best explains the kind of "torment" the poet passes through in the process of creating. The demon is part of the Arabic mythology which says that each poet has a demon that inspires him.

Besides poems, Mr. Jabra's long list of works includes short stories, critical essays and studies, novels, film scripts and translations.

His first piece of writing, when only 18, at school in Egypt and Beirut, was a short story *The Daughters Of Heaven*. Subsequent literary criticism said that "everything I wrote (later) was already in that story in an embryonic form. But the story has more sentimentality than I would have now," he says.

Mr. Jabra who, by virtue of being a literary and art critic has written quite a few essays, both in Arabic and in English, hurries to say: "I also write novels. My fiction has been my main concern over the last 30 years."

Hunters In A Narrow Street, an early novel conceived in the mid 1950s and published in 1960, is a story of Jerusalem and Baghdad, of "catastrophe and love."

Love is a central theme in Mr. Jabra's works, but the plots are centred around "Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq." "The later poems, among which there is a collection titled *Love And The Wide-eyed Juggler*, are "all about love."

"I was younger, and love was only one element in a complex of subjects. Now I pay more attention to it," says the writer whose works are "populated with beautiful women," and "who is told women 'identify with the heroines of the books.'"

A much-talked about novel, published in 1991, is *The Diary Of Saraab Affan*. It has, of course, love as a major theme. It is the story of a 26-year-old woman falling in love with a 56-year-old writer. The name, Saraab (mirage), is symbolic in itself.

The woman has a double personality; one, Saraab, is wild and uncontrollable, the other one, Randa Al Jawzi, is rational, sensible. There is a perpetual quarrel between the two. The novel ends in a bold gesture on her part, a continuation for her great love. She joins an underground Palestinian group in Paris, ready for action, challenging death.

Another famous novel, *The Ship*, deals with the mid 60s Iraq and Palestine. A

complicated love plot is the theme, while the symbolism is embodied in the ship, "a symbol of salvation when you abandon the ship and come back to land, a means to carry you away, distance yourself only to see your country better," says Mr. Jabra.

In *Search Of Waleed Masoud* is another complex novel in which the search for the main character, Waleed Masoud, provides the medium for discovery, "in a mirror-like reflection" of the traits of each of the people involved. It is both a physical and a spiritual search providing surprising discoveries.

Mr. Jabra's works are translated in many languages (English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Russian,

Serbo-Croat), but he also translates himself. "Half of my works are translations into Arabic," says the writer whose contribution, through translations, includes literary classics like William Shakespeare, William Faulkner, Samuel Becket, Alexander Eliot, Oscar Wilde.

For Mr. Jabra, work is pleasure and torment. It is done out of sheer joy or salvation "every time I feel despaired."

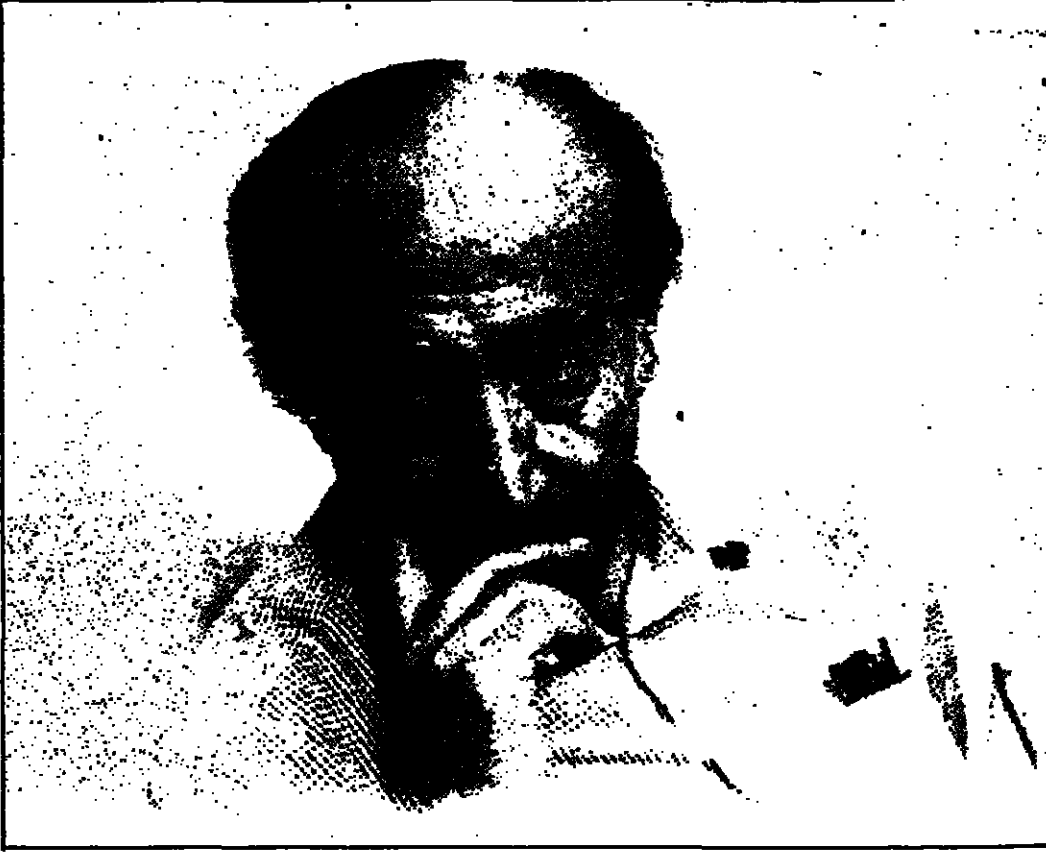
The "idealist" who did not budge from "home" when so many have done so in the face of vicissitudes believes that "our plague is despair, but we must avoid despair like a plague. There is so much temptation to despair and our enemies (Zionists) have tried to drag us in the

swamp of despair."

And so work was the haven for the writer who, whenever lost courage, would "go into more work and sleepless nights."

The collection of essays *Living With The Tigris* is perhaps the best illustration of the way Mr. Jabra sees the process of writing. "The tigris represents the lust for writing. She torments you till you get hold of her and she becomes meek and subdued."

The feeling at the end of each work is not one of "relief." "I do not say 'it's all over,' but 'I have to start all over again,'" Mr. Jabra says. And his look holds promises of taming more "tigrisses," an act from which the Arab literature has only to gain.



Jabra Ibrahim Jabra

My Demon And I

A poem by
Jabra Ibrahim Jabra

As it fluttered and throbbed
With love, abandon and lustful folly.

Words, words!
What's agony like in the heart
As it calls out like a clarion,
What's vanishing
In a white cloud encircling the brain
Elevating one's whole being
Into ecstasy and the impossible?
Shall I shout, shall I sing, shall I
Contort my body in a violent dance,
Or race the wind, fly like fountain water
Into blue space then cascade
On marble floors in rainbow colours?

And the music which used everyday
To unravel me into threads,
Then re-weave me shred by shred,
How am I to emulate it now
That I am unravelled thread by thread.
All scattered on the floor
With no one to weave it back again,
Waiting for a hand never, outstretched,
Waiting for lips always seen
But never embodied,
Waiting for a voice that fills the world
With rejoicing yells, reverberating
Further and further away until
It is heard no more by me
Despite the endless din?

Yes, I said, I shall write
I shall write what turns madly round
To no final form,
What eddies in stormy waters
Sinking to depths
Which only lead to hell.
I shall write what is beyond all utterance,
Rejects logic, and trembles
Like a butterfly's wings at midday,
Or melts like flecks of snow
Falling on deserts and wasteland.
I shall write what will respond
In loving laughter to the morning sun,
Pants with a profligate's lust,
Or lets itself go with the follies
Of a green night crazed
By the moon which causes
The earth to go mad with moaning
And desire.
How are the innards stabbed

To screaming, turning their blood
Into paintings and sculptures?
How are sounds transformed into tears,
Torrents, cloud-topped mountains
And valleys devouring suns no end?

Is this the aching for a vision
That never surrenders itself,
When tempests rush where nothing
Is left behind but ruined reason?
Is this the lust of the soul
Or of the body?
Is there any difference between them?
Let words articulate,
And let them fashion for my eyes
A face the like of which
God perfects once only in a thousand years.

Is this hell without oblivion?
Those driven down to hell are given
One or two draughts from Lethe,
And they forget:
How many draughts, O lord of hell,
Have you given me, repeatedly,
To no avail?
You've given up, and I've remained
In a torment you would not wish
For your worst enemy.
You knew the terror of memory's serpents
And so created Lethe's waters
To kill them:
But here are serpents that refuse to die
Pursuing the torture of their pleasures.

O vaulting blood in black domains
Resplendent in darknesses going naked
Like forests in rain,
Whose call with never cease for a moment,
Night's forests are sheer murder
In agonised love.
The beasts of night are marauding me,
And the beasts of day seduce me
With night's forests and their burning beasts.

I turned round and found
My demon, lighter than air,
Had mounted my shoulder, whispering
As was his wont in my ear
But I knew not this time what exactly
He'd planned for me with his whispers,
And his voice was truly strange:
Was it a new sorrow he had for me
Or a long-absent joy?
Or was it that his laughter tonight
Was more akin to tears?

The French national anthem called into question

Should the words of the "Marseillaise" be changed? This old quarrel is back in the forefront. On one side, there are those who ask that certain "bloodthirsty" lines be omitted; on the other, those who see red at the idea of altering the national anthem.

PARIS — Two centuries ago, when revolutionary France took on the "Europe of tyrants," the "Marseillaise" became the rallying cry of the proud and indignant French Republic.

It was written in Strasbourg in spring 1792 by the poet and musician Rouget de L'Isle the captain of the Rhine army. He had been asked to compose a hymn by General Kellermann, the future victor of Valmy, who wanted "something suitable to inflame the hearts."

The hymn, which was first sung in the capital of Alsace, only really became popular in Marseilles where it had been brought by a student called François Mireur. The Marseillais regiment, which

set off for Paris where it was to take part in the storming of the Tuileries, the residence of the court, adopted it as its marching song. Hence the name "Marseillaise", given it by the Parisians.

Since then, with periods of eclipse due to historical circumstances, the "Marseillaise" has remained the French national anthem. Inspired by revolutionary fervour, it has been said that Rouget de L'Isle wrote it, but that it was dictated to him by the invader.

On the occasion of the Olympic Games in Albertville last winter, the polemic on the matter of the national anthem once more came to the fore. Standing on a platform, a little girl sang in her

graceful voice about the "ferocious soldiers" slaughtering "our sons and wives" and the "impure blood" watering the furrows of land.

This caused immediate indignation in some. In newspapers, on the radio and on television, those in favour of a revision of the hymn made themselves heard. Among them were a few personalities including Abbe Pierre, who is unanimously respected for his action in favour of the underprivileged.

The hymn to liberty

Does the end of the world conflicts and colonial wars not show peace as a henceforth normal situation between nations? Does the farmer in his field, the worker in his factory or the clerk in his office think of raising "the bloody standard" against the invader?

So why maintain these "male tones" of exaltation in war? Why not replace them with pacific lines? Or else only sing the lines in Rouget de L'Isle work which encourage indulgence towards the

enemy: "Frenchmen, as magnanimous warriors, Bear or restrain your blows.

Spare these sorry victims, Arming themselves against us regretfully." And, for young people, this verse (attributed to Marie-Joseph Chemier) inviting them to seek inspiration in the virtues of those who came before them:

"We will enter careers When our elders are no longer there.

We will find their dust there And the trace of their virtues."

But, for a large number of French people, the "Marseillaise" is sacred. They bristle at the idea that a single note or a single comma could be changed or cut out. This was clearly seen in the 70s when the then French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing wanted to slow down the tempo to give it more dignity. It caused a general outcry.

"The anthem is sacred. Do not touch it," the supporters

of the "Marseillaise" cry out. It is for ever a part of the heritage. Was it not singing these heroic verses as a last challenge to the Nazi occupants that members of the Resistance in the last war faced their executions?

In France, everything, even songs, now end up in surveys. These show that war veterans and youngsters, pregnant women and schoolgirls, grocers and farmers all agree, to an overwhelming majority, to ratify the vengeful anthem.

"This song, taken up by all the insurgents on earth, would never have gone all round the world, if it had been the product of chauvinistic militarism," the historian Michel Winock writes. "In spite of the clanking of arms with which its verses resound, it contains a clear message that peoples have understood: There is no fraternity except through liberty." That is why, according to him, the "Marseillaise" has, for over a century, been "the true international anthem of the human race" — L'Actualite En France.



The 'Marseillaise' sung in the centennial celebrations of the Tuileries gardens during the bi-

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 6

8:30 The Simpsons

As usual, Bart tries to be smart, but his plan is uncovered.

9:00 Olympics

10:00 News In English

10:00 Movie Of The Week

Woman Of The Year

Starring: Renee Taylor

A woman who tried to strike a balance between her deep involvement in helping the needy and her own needs.

12:00 Olympics

Friday, Aug. 7

8:30 Golden Girls

Snap Out Of It

Dorothy tries to help Jimmy quit his isolation in his closed room. But he thinks that she is in love with him.

9:10 Root Into Europe

A comedy mini-series about

an English old man, Henry Root, and his wife who decided to explore Europe in 1992.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Olympics

Saturday, Aug. 8

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Variety

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

Birds Gotta Fly

Josephine asks Gabriel to convince her son to leave the army, while he asks her to convince his daughter to stay with him in town.

Sunday, Aug. 9

8:30 Olympic games

10:00 News In English

11:00 Midnight Caller

Life Without Possibility

A riot begins in the prison for

better conditions.

Monday, Aug. 10

8:30 Close To Home

Fete Takes A Land

Dr. James invites Vicky to dinner at home.

9:10 A Perfect Hero

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Family

Johan Strauss Sr. lives with his mistress but his business manager fears that this would influence his popularity in Vienna. Meanwhile competition between Strauss Sr. and his son becomes stronger as his son succeeds and his audiences appreciate him more and more.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

8:30 Acropolis Now

Writer's Block

Elizabeth meets a man in the restaurant who claims that he is a famous poet. Elizabeth is attracted to him because she loves poetry but Jim tries to warn her about the man.

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:30 Tex

The Sea Takes All

10:00 News In English

10:20 Oscar Film

The Scarlet Pimpernel

Starring: Leslie Howard

An English nobleman's role during and after the French Revolution.

Wednesday, Aug. 12

8:30 Saved By The Bell

The episode is about looking after babies.

9:10 Man Of The People

Doyle takes part in an environmental campaign which calls for recycling used materials.

10:00 News In English

10:20 In A Child's Name

A custody battle ensues when Ken's parents defy a court order and secretly flee with the baby to another state.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 6

1600 — France's King Henry IV invades duchy of Savoy in Italy.

1661 — Portuguese and Dutch sign treaty whereby Portuguese retain Brazil and Dutch keep Ceylon.

1726 — Holy Roman Empire and Russia conclude military alliance against Turkey.

1806 — Holy Roman Empire ends as Francis II formally resigns the imperial dignity and becomes Francis I, emperor of Austria.

1824 — Simon Bolivar defeats Spanish forces at Junin in Peru.

1828 — Mehmet Ali, ruler of Egypt, agrees to British demands to quit Greece.

1840 — Louis Napoleon attempts uprising at Doulogne in France but it fails and he subsequently is sentenced to life imprisonment.

1844 — French under Duc De Joinville begin hostilities against Morocco.

1849 — Peace of Milan ends war between Sardinia and Austria.

1914 — Serbia and Montenegro declare war on Germany.

1945 — U.S. plane drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan near end of World War II.

1962 — China agrees to meeting with India to discuss border disputes.

1973 — Mistaken attack by U.S. bombers on Cambodian town of Neak Long kills and wounds hundreds.

1990 — Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto ousted by military after 20 months as prime minister; U.N. Security Council imposes economic embargo on Iraq for invading Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd gives U.S. permission to deploy military defence force on Saudi soil.

1991 — Yugoslavia's president proclaims an unconditional ceasefire in Croatia.

1991 — British navy under Sir Francis Drake destroy Spanish Armada in battle off France.

1647 — Irish forces are defeated by British parliamentary forces at Dangan Hill in Ireland.

1815 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte sails for St. Helena to spend remainder of his life in exile.

1832 — East India Company under William Bentinck annexes Cathar after residents ask for British protection.

1940 — Germany begins concentrated bombing of Britain in World War II.

1953 — United States and South Korea sign mutual defence treaty.

1941 — Soviet planes carry out their first bombing raids against Berlin, Germany, in

World War II

1942 — U.S. forces land on Guadalcanal in Pacific during World War II.

1945 — Soviet Union declares war on Japan seven days before Japanese surrender in World War II.

1959 — Chinese invade northeast frontier province of India.

1960 — Ivory Coast becomes independent of France.

1964 — People's Republic of the Congo is proclaimed.

1971 — Three U.S. Apollo 15 astronauts make safe splashdown in Pacific Ocean after their moon visit.

1975 — Lower House of India's parliament approves constitutional amendment stripping courts of power to hear cases of thousands of people held as political prisoners.

1988 — Three boats carrying almost 200 passengers capsize in Jamuna River in Bangladesh during earthquake, and about 30 people are feared drowned.

1990 — U.S. orders troops to Saudi Arabia to defend against Iraqis and says U.S. ships will enforce U.N. embargo on Iraq.

1991 — Croatian government accepts a federal peace plan in Yugoslavia and says it will not be first to break a ceasefire in the republic.

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troops from Congo.

1964 — Turkish planes attack Cyprus.

1965 — City of Singapore withdraws from Federation of Malaysia and becomes independent state.

1974 — U.S. President Richard Nixon announces his resignation, under threat of impeachment.

1986 — Car bomb explodes in busy shopping street in west Beirut, killing 17 people and wounding 84.

1988 — Iran's President Ali Khamenei says eight-year-old Gulf war with Iraq "is apparently coming to a close."

1990 — Iraq formally annexes Kuwait after U.S. President George Bush says Iraq must vacate that country and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher orders British air and naval forces to Gulf at King Fahd's request.

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Iraq and Kuwait.

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Beast

By E. Yaghi

Beast was indeed very hideous. Because of his extreme ugliness he lived by himself in a paper tent. He slept on a sheepskin rug, ate from a simple wooden dish and drank from an iron cup. Because of his repugnant appearance, he had no friends and no one to share his secrets, triumphs or disappointments with. However, if beauty is known to go only skin deep, so does ugliness and Beast had a compassionate heart that was full of love for all living things. But he had learned through painful experience that it was no use trying to convince anyone of his internal beauty, so he lived far away from the bustle and noise of the city on a high crest where he could almost see forever. The closest humans were those that lived away below in the valley. His companions were pine and spruce trees that stretched up to greet the sun, squirrels that scampered about and wild flowers of every imaginable colour.

Often, to pass away his lonely time, Beast would quote poems from Shakespeare, Blake, Longfellow, Tennyson and Poe or he would sing songs about fanciful emotions and eloquent ideals or play melancholy tunes on his wooden flute. On summer nights he would sleep outside on his sheepskin rug while jaying face upwards and look at the black silk of night sequined with bright mini-stars. He would dream of meaningful human relations while counting the bright stars that winked at him. Sometimes the friendless being would sigh and say, "Why is it that nobody loves me? I wish no one ill will or harm, yet I am hated for the way I look as if I created myself. No one has ever tried to see beyond my abhorrent exterior. Ah, the world is a harsh and cruel place populated mostly by people who only look at superficial surfaces. Few study or delve under the surface of things. I am an outcast and it seems that I am forced to live the rest of my life in solitude."

One day a young child eyed the steep hill that loomed above the sanctuary of his tribe. He heard an inner voice whisper to him: "Go and see the wonders of the mountain and there your curiosity will be quenched!"

He obeyed the strange urge that pulled him like a magnet and climbed up, up to the top of the hill. Once he reached the crest, he scrambled over the edge and then stood and looked far down at the valley below and said: "It is very quiet and secluded here, yet I feel that I'm not alone."

So he walked for a while until he came to the paper tent of Beast. It was late afternoon and as customary, Beast was amusing himself by playing one of his strange tunes on his flute. The boy stopped and listened. "It is the most beautiful sound I have ever heard," he said to the sweet mountain air.

He put his head close to the opening of the tent and peeked inside at the strange sitting creature who continued to play the intoxicating tune on an ancient wooden flute. When he saw the monster before him, he nearly let out a scream of terror. How could such an ugly creature play so exquisitely? His large grotesque hands held the flute gently and the twisted fingers softly touched the silver keys. "Please sir," said the boy quivering all over. "I'm sorry to disturb you, but I've never before heard anyone play like you do."

Beast read the fear in the boy's eyes but he saw innocence too, an innocence that perchance might not have learned hate or prejudice. "Come here boy," the frightening thing said holding out his hand. "Don't be afraid! If it pleases you, I will teach you how to play."

The bloom of handsome youth contrasted sharply with Beast's ugliness. Somehow the boy swallowed his fear and said: "Oh would you please, sir I'd love to play as splendid as you do!"

So ensued an extraordinary friendship. Beast not only taught the boy to play the flute even better than he did, but he also taught him quotations from forgotten poems, how to sing folk songs of times past, how to count the stars at night and

most of all, how to dream, make wishes and have hope for the future. In time, the boy came to love Beast. Whenever the detestable creature asked the boy if he didn't find him repulsive, he would reply, "No my friend I do not think you are ugly. I can see your heart and I know that it's very beautiful. You are my treasured companion and I have come to love you as much as I love my own family."

Whenever he heard these words of infatuation roll out of the boy's mouth, tears would blur Beast's eyes and he would almost choke on the lump that had positioned itself in his throat and say: "You, dear child, are the only one who knows my heart. Only you can see beyond the grotesque exterior and decipher what's inside. Because of your love, the sky is bluer, the trees greener, the forest more wondrous and the heavens brighter. Indeed, your friendship is more precious than a rare jewel! What would I ever do without you?"

One afternoon, the boy didn't come as usual so Beast sat sulking on a rock in the sun. On his lap, lay his wooden flute. At last, slowly as if with great thought, he picked it up and began to play more beautifully than he had ever played before. While he was engrossed in his music, some hunters from the valley below had intruded in his forest paradise. They heard the strange tune and followed the sound to its source. Evergreens spread out their branches and some squirrels had stopped to listen, but when the hunters approached, the branches retracted and the tiny inhabitants sprung away. Beast, so completely engrossed in his music failed to interpret the danger signs of the forest that he knew so well.

When the men first saw the loathsome figure of Beast, they drew back and gasped but when they began to sense him harmless, they gained courage. "Let us kill this horrid thing!" one hunter said.

"Good idea, he's much too ugly to live anyway," said another.

"Perhaps we should spare him. He plays such captivating music," said a third.

"Nonsense," others said and grabbed the inhuman looking thing and tied him to a tree.

"I shall be brave," one man volunteered, "and kill him myself if none of the rest of you are men enough."

He took an arrow from a pack bound to his shoulder, whistling it through the air, placed it in his bow and aimed at poor Beast. The hunter pulled the taut string of the bow shooting the arrow through the air with a whish which struck Beast in the heart, killing him immediately. The hero hunter smiled at his deed and walked away laughing, not even thinking twice about the life he had just taken. That night, one of the hunters took Beast's wooden flute down to the valley and handed it to his small son who stood before the village campfire and said: "Here boy, I'm glad you didn't go up the mountain today. It would have been much too dangerous for you. We found a most hideous beast and fearing for the safety of the village, slew him at once. But, look, I brought you his flute. Perhaps one day you can learn to play it as well as he did."

The boy was at first stunned and then he looked angrily up at his guilty father while tears of pain streamed down his face and he shouted: "You killed my friend, Beast? How could you? You took away his life just because you thought him too ugly to live? Didn't you even care to know if he was evil or good before his blood stained your hands?"

The youth never forgot his friendship with Beast or how he was murdered simply because no one cared to really know or understand him. But the boy had loved him dearly and felt his loss to be a heavy weight on his heart. He now plays the same melancholy tunes that Beast once played, quotes phrases from classical literature, counts stars at night, dreams impossible dreams and hopes that when tomorrow comes, it will be better.

Chichimec manuscripts deciphered at British Museum

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

LONDON — New insights into the ancient Chichimec civilisation in Mexico have been discovered in manuscript fragments assembled in the British Museum.

Gordon Brotherston, a professor at Essex University, said the manuscripts push back the origins of the Chichimec civilisation from the 11th century A.D., as archaeologists previously believed, to the seventh or eighth century.

"It's important for Mexican history because the

Chichimecs were not regarded as a cultured people, and they tend to get a bit suppressed by the Aztecs," Prof. Brotherston said.

30 years after death, Marilyn Monroe mystique lives on

By Matt Spetalnick
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — She lived fast and died young and beautiful, a formula that turned Hollywood's most glamorous sex symbol into one of America's most lucrative cultural icons.

Three decades after her death, Marilyn Monroe still exerts a magical hold on the public's imagination — and its pocketbook.

The world was a self-administered overdose of barbiturates. She was pronounced dead on Aug. 5, 1962.

But Monroe, whose 38-inch (97 cm) bust and platinum-blond hair made her something of a national treasure during her lifetime, has never been allowed to

rest in peace. Her mystique has grown year after year until she is now more famous dead than she was alive.

An entire industry has sprung up to capitalize on her name and likeness, generating an estimated \$1 million a year for the Monroe estate from the licensing of everything from look-alike dolls to candy bars.

Now, inspired by the 30th anniversary of her death, Marilyn mania is taking off as never before with the release of new tell-all books, photo collections and videos.

Merchandise bearing her image is saturating the market, and the tabloids are reporting new Marilyn sightings to rival Elvis Presley's ghostly appearances. Monroe may have fore-

told the post-mortem marketing of her mystique when she said: "Hollywood is a place where they will pay you \$1,000 for a kiss and 50 cents for your soul."

"Marilyn is the American icon of beauty and sensuality. That kind of thing attracts advertisers," said Roger Richman, whose Beverly Hills firm acts as licensing agent for the Monroe estate.

More than 400 products have been licensed over the past 10 years, including posters, sunglasses, shoes, calendars and even a Napa Valley, California wine called Marilyn Merlot.

But being the guardian of the Monroe legacy sometimes means having to say no — as was the case when a Japanese company asked to use her image on rolls of

toilet paper.

More than a dozen new books are headed for the stores to join the 50-plus titles already on the shelves.

One that stands out is *The Murder Of Marilyn Monroe*, a book by four psychiatrists who offer interviews from the grave with Monroe, the Kennedys and others.

A more down-to-earth approach is used in *Marilyn: The Last Take*, a new book by Peter Harry Brown and Patte Barham. Its thesis is that Robert Kennedy, then attorney general, became involved with Monroe while trying to end her affair with his brother, President John Kennedy, and was a player in a coverup following her death.

Marilyn look-alikes, both

male and female, are in high demand. The fishnet-stock outfit she wore in *Bus Stop* sold recently for \$32,000.

Fans, friends and Marilyn impersonators gather in a Los Angeles cemetery on Aug. 5 to pile flowers on her pink marble tomb.

The fascination with Monroe has been kept alive by a constant flow of scandalous "secrets" about her life and conspiracy theories about her death.

One tale has the mafia murdering her to get even with the Kennedys. Another has organized crime murdering her on orders from the Kennedys.

Leo Braudy, a film historian at the University of Southern California, said Monroe's magic lay in her ability "to blend sensuality

with a quiet vulnerability in a way that appealed to both men and women."

Born Norma Jean Baker, she grew up in orphanages and foster homes in Los Angeles and was discovered by a photographer while working in an aircraft factory.

She used her voluptuous figure and breathy voice to transform herself into an instant sex symbol in the 1940s.

Her most successful films, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Some Like It Hot* and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, set box-office records. She married two of the most famous men of her time, renowned playwright Arthur Miller and baseball great Joe DiMaggio, but never seemed to find happiness.



Marilyn Monroe

Mark Twain — a hopeless romantic in private

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — On Feb. 5, 1869, Mark Twain, often considered America's greatest humorist, wrote a letter to his mother announcing his engagement to Olivia Langdon.

"She (at first) said she never could or would love me — but she set herself the task of making a Christian of me," wrote Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens.

"I said she would succeed, but that in the meantime she would unwittingly dig a matrimonial pit end by tumbling into it — Lo the prophecy is fulfilled."

The letter is one of 184, most of which have never been published, in *Mark Twain's Letters: Volume 3* issued on July 28 by the

University of California Press in Berkeley.

Most of the epistles are love letters sent by Twain from various stops across America on the lecture tour from which he earned his living at the time.

The letters reveal a romantic side to the wise-cracking author of *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer*, often said to be the first and greatest American humorist and novelist.

"I often want to write you three or four times a day," Twain wrote Langdon in May 1869.

"It is a real, living genuine pleasure to me to write you every day," he wrote. "I would feel... a day was lost wherein I was cheated out of

this most happy privilege."

Twain fell in love with Langdon after being shown her picture by her brother while on a cruise to the Middle East in 1867. He met her in December of that year.

"She allowed him to write her only as a sister," Victor Fischer, editor of the new collection, said in a telephone interview. "He declared his love for her, but she was uncomfortable with that."

Twain, undaunted, proposed in September 1868 and was refused. But Olivia finally relented that November.

The book includes a letter to Langdon's mother informing her of the engagement.

"It is not... an easy thing for me to write... to you, (considering that) I am going to bring upon you such a

calamity as taking away... your daughter, the nearest and dearest of all your household gods," Twain wrote on Feb. 13, 1869.

Twain added that despite his public image as a wild young man, he had reformed.

"You might well ask, 'who are you that presumes to do this?'" Twain wrote, referring to his plans to marry Langdon. "And it would be a hard question to answer. I could refer you to fifty friends... but they know nothing of me now."

"They know me as a profane swearer as a man... not averse to social drinking as a man without a religion... as a wild young man. But now I never swear I never taste wine or spirits... and finally I

now claim that I am a Christian."

If Langdon was busy trying to make Twain into a good Christian, he in turn was pre-occupied with the most intimate details of her life.

"Livy, darling, I see by your letter that you are not sleeping enough," he wrote on Feb. 27, 1869. "Do you want to break this old heart of mine? What I do long to hear, Livy, is that you lie abed late in the morning — that you don't get up until your dear eyes refuse to stay shut any longer."

"For it is the morning sleep that is so strengthening, Livy. An hour of it is worth any other three hours..."

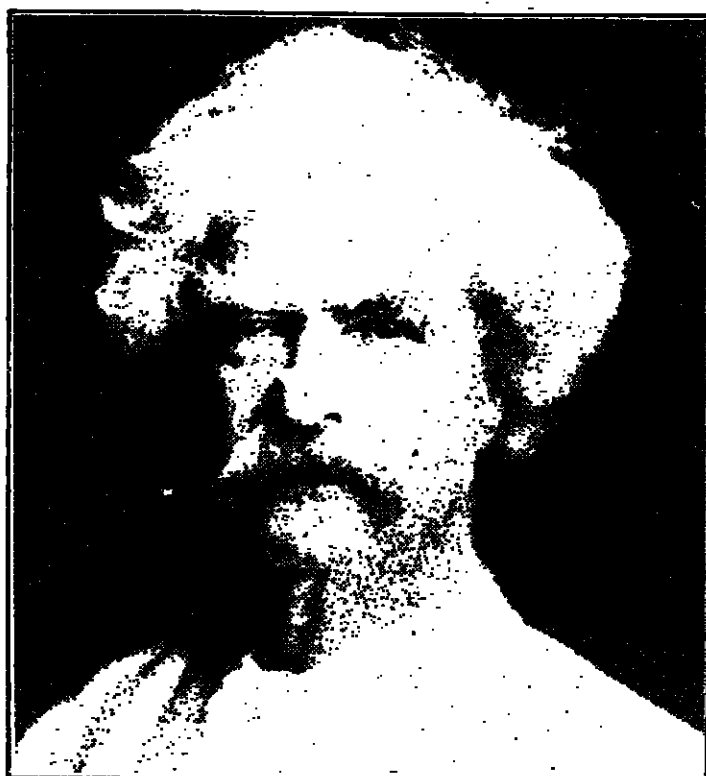
"I have talked it over with your father, he is ready to

miss the blessing of your presence at breakfast in order that you may become more than ever a blessing to him by building up your strength through late sleeping."

Most of the letters are not concerned with such mundane matters, but are nonetheless unabashed love letters from Twain, then 33, to his beloved who was 23.

The two married in February 1870 and did not part until Olivia's death in 1904.

"I love you, Livy," Twain wrote on Feb. 13, 1869. "Indeed I do love you, Livy... I love you beyond all expression, Livy — it is strange I never thought to tell you before. But I do love you, darling."



Mark Twain

Vikki Carr is making a comeback

By Mary Campbell
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vikki Carr is making a comeback in English — and it's going better than she hoped. In Spanish, things have been going well for quite a while.

In 1967, she had a huge hit, *It Must Be Him* (which was revived in the 1987 movie *Moonstruck*). In 1969, she had another hit, *With Pen In Hand*.

Then in 1972, because of her Mexican heritage, she fought to make an album in Spanish. After Columbia Records dropped her U.S. contract, she concentrated on performing and recording in Spanish, eventually making 13 albums for Sony Mexico and buying a condo in Mexico City.

Her two '60s hits were nominated for Grammy

Awards at the time. Neither won. But she's won two Grammys since then — in 1985 for Best Mexican-American Performance for the LP *Simplemente Mujer* and this year for Best Latin Pop Album for *Cosas Del Amor*.

Meanwhile, she found that she missed the United States, and in 1987, her second marriage cracking and sick with mononucleosis, she returned to Los Angeles and got rid of her Mexican management company.

An agent then got her a date with the Birmingham Symphony.

"I was afraid there wasn't going to be anybody there," the 50-year-old singer said. "I was queen kong in Mexico and Latin America. I knew I could go there again to get love and applause. The Latin audience is much more demonstrative. They sing every

song with me, tell me what they want to hear. I get 10-minute standing ovations."

"I could not believe the response from people (in Birmingham). Sometimes when you get an ovation it fills your heart. If it's continuous, it fills it so much you can't breathe. That audience had me in tears. And I got the best reviews I've ever had in my life."

After that, Carr recalled, "I was with Rich Little in Las Vegas. We did two weeks at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City. I went back to headline Caesars Palace this year right after the Grammys put the name Vikki Carr out there again."

Peter Shukat, whom she met at the Grammys, attended that opening and agreed to manage her.

"So much is happening.

I'm so happy I have a manager now that helps me pull in those balloons that are out there."

The "balloons" include a Christmas album, a tour in Latin America and a possible TV series about a career woman with Mexican roots. A compact disc of 24 tracks Carr recorded for Liberty years ago has just been released, titled *It Must Be Him*.

When Carr was scheduled to open for Dean Martin at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, he cancelled. She headlined, but opening night was the day of the Los Angeles riots in the wake of the Rodney King verdict.

"Business was off but started picking up," she said. "This is a business. Numbers tell. The more you sell, the more they want you."

She had a date at the 6,000-seat Greek Theatre in Los

Angeles a week later, which she tried to postpone because only 3,200 tickets had sold. Request denied.

"I asked for God's help," she said. "We had walk-up business, 2,000 more. It was raining. People did not leave."

"It strengthened my resolve. There is a public out there for Vikki Carr."

In New York, she played a successful June week at the Blue Note. "I'm still grinning," she said. "It has been some time since I can remember being this happy and content."

Her goal now: A concert at Carnegie Hall. She also would like to record in English again.

Carr, who was born in El Paso, Texas, has three Mexican grandparents and one Mexican-American grandparent born in California. She and her mother are fair. Her

genealogy shows that her mother's ancestors went from France to Spain to fight Arabs and from there to Mexico. Her first language was Spanish.

Her name is Florencia Bisenta de Casillas Martinez Cardona, starting with her patron saint's name, her given name, her father's mother's maiden name and her father's last name.

She's told that order is wrong but doesn't change it because "I've been saying it this way for so long."

She took the name Vikki Carr long ago when she was signing with the Pepe Callahan Mexican-Irish Band. Some of the musicians who helped her came up with it. "We shortened Cardona down to Carr and invented Vikki with that weird spelling," she said.

Crisis of high fashion look

By Daniela Petroff
The Associated Press

ROME — Forty years ago she was a stunning debutante. Now Italian couture is an ex-beauty in terrible need of a facelift.

Born in Florence in 1952, Italian high fashion gained international fame during the hot years of the "dolce vita," when high society descended on Rome to be near its flourishing film industry.

Liz Taylor, Ava Gardner, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly, to name but a few, flaunted their Italian wardrobes from Sorelle Fontana to Galitzine, Biki and Capucci.

But the fashion crowd is fickle, and during the 1970s it began to turn its attention back to the undisputed queen of couture, Paris, taking some of Italy's favorite sons — such as Valentino — along.

A few of the successful ready-to-wear designers like Ferre tried to infuse new blood into Roman couture, but soon opted to join Valentino. Versace and Ferre, among other Italians, now show their collections in Paris, where Ferre also designs for the prestigious house of Dior.

However, like a diva who cannot bear to take her final bow, Italian high fashion persists in presenting its new wears on the Roman runway twice a year, in January and July.

The four days of the fall-winter shows, which ended in a gala fashion festival on the Spanish steps recently produced more yawns than yelps.

Even the presence of top models Naomi Campbell, Karen Mulder, Nadege and Jasmine on the runways and beautiful young nobles and actresses in the aisles could not dispel the also-ran mood.

Try as they might to be modern, the collections of 12 new designers, mostly either of noble extraction or second-generation tailors, failed to awaken the crowd. A season ago, Prince

Giovanni Torlonia was virtually booed off the runway for suggesting that black leather sadomasochism — a look Gianni Versace makes millions off — was worthy of high fashion status. The repentant prince this season showed taffeta ball gowns that looked as though they must have inspired by looking in his mother's closet.

In general the look for next winter is long and slim. The miniskirt no longer has a place on the couture runway, replaced by tight-fitting calf-length skirts or wide pants. Body heat comes in plunging necklines, slit skirts and see-through fabrics.

Black and white are "de rigueur." Already seen on the Milan ready-to-wear runway, animal prints popped up everywhere.

Opulence is always a major factor in high fashion, reserved for the rich and famous. Next season offers lots of gold in sumptuous brocade fabrics, glittering sequins and ostentatious jewelry. Shoes are high-heeled, hairstyles are braided or pinned-up, make-up is over-stated.

Naturally some of the old favorites like Lancetti, Laug, Balestra and Barocco offered exquisite outfits. Even the most saturated wardrobe could use a trim Laug suit with a hi-length jacket and long slim skirt, or a gold brocade kimono coat by Lancetti.

The televised gala, during which 26 Italian designers including Valentino, Armani and Ferre presented their 1992 collections, epitomized Italy's couture crisis.

While the evening's hostess, Milly Carlucci, drove up to the Spanish steps in a carriage drawn by four white horses, Valentino raced his models onto the runway on gilded motorcycles.

Meant to reproduce a baroque street fair, the organizers smothered the natural beauty of the Spanish steps in pink and gold streamers and hid the piazza's famous Bernini Boat Fountain by winding a runway around it.

Exhibition explodes myth of Van Gogh as loner

By Cynthia Osterman
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Vincent Van Gogh was not the friendless, unrecognized artist of popular myth.

A new exhibition here shows relatives and contemporaries such as Paul Gauguin, Henri De Toulouse-Lautrec and Claude Monet paying warm tribute to him both as artist and friend.

Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum, home of the biggest collection of his paintings in the world, is displaying little-known letters of condolence sent to Van Gogh's brother Theo and family after the Dutch artist killed himself, aged 37, in 1890.

The letters express love and admiration for Van Gogh and curators hope the show, titled "a great artist is dead," will help balance his image as a loner.

"The general view is that Van Gogh was very much neglected, unappreciated and virtually friendless... but by no means was he unrecognized in his lifetime," said art historian Ronald Pickvance, who organized the exhibition.

Van Gogh's vibrant canvases and troubled life have fascinated millions since his death.

Popular interest was heightened during the 1980s by publicity over the astronomical prices paid for his works.

An exhibition of his work held to mark the centenary of his death in 1990 drew nearly 900,000 people to Amsterdam. The same year his *Portrait Of Dr. Gachet* set a world record when it was sold for \$82.5 million.

While certain aspects of Van Gogh's life are well known, like his mutilation of his ear, he remains little

understood, experts say.

"There is a coterie of Van Gogh specialists and then an endless mass audience where the myth reigns that he was a tragic, failed painter," said Sjraar Van Heugten, research curator at the Van Gogh Museum.

Dr. Paul Gachet, who cared for Van Gogh during the final months of his life, described Van Gogh as a "giant" and a martyr to art.

More than respecting his artistic talent, Van Gogh's peers saw past his unruly temperament to find a loyal

ment. Dr. Paul Gachet, who cared for Van Gogh during the final months of his life, described Van Gogh as a "giant" and a martyr to art.

More than respecting his artistic talent, Van Gogh's peers saw past his unruly temperament to find a loyal

While certain aspects of Van Gogh's life are well known, like his mutilation of his ear, he remains little understood.

The 50 letters in the new exhibition debunk that myth.

Some are terse, like the note from Belgian artist Eugene-Guillaume Boch that lent the exhibition its title: "I was very distressed to learn of the death of your brother Monsieur Vincent a great artist is dead."

Others gush with senti-

ment. Dr. Paul Gachet, who cared for Van Gogh during the final months of his life, described Van Gogh as a "giant" and a martyr to art.

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New vaccines target typhoid

By Max de Lotbiniere

LONDON — While economists, politicians and commentators draw their own dividing line between "industrialised" and "developing" nations, or the "First" and the "Third" World, with varying degrees of accuracy, there is one type of indicator which is free of bias or prejudice. Take a map of the world showing where major fatal — but preventable — diseases like measles, cholera and malaria are endemic and, before the arguments start over causes and solutions, you have the starkest and most tragic distinction between "North" and "South."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is well aware of the statistics, but at a recent WHO sponsored meeting, Nigeria's health minister, Professor Okeowo Ransome-Kuti highlighted

the public health crisis faced by "Southern" nations. Every year an estimated two-million deaths and five million cases of disability occur from diseases preventable by vaccines. Diarrhea of viral or bacterial origin causes three to five million deaths, while acute respiratory infections kill more than two million people and malaria affects 150 million. For these diseases, he observed, there are no satisfactory vaccines available.

The issue of the availability of effective vaccines in the countries where diseases are endemic is a politically charged one, but at its heart lies money. Many of the vaccines currently available are just too expensive for use in immunisation programmes in Third World countries, and the prospect is the same for new vaccines being developed. But, the same vac-

cines are available and affordable in developed countries, providing increasingly convenient protection to the growing number of people traveling for tourism or business to the developing world.

According to statistics compiled by one vaccine manufacturer, 20 million residents of industrialised nations travel to developing countries each year, with U.K. nationals accounting for 3 per cent of that total. Those people represent a huge market for vaccine manufacturers, as all of them must visit their doctor for a course of vaccines. A typical traveler from the U.K. going to South East Asia, for example, will be immunised against hepatitis A, cholera, typhoid and tetanus.

Few of these travelers would mind paying the average cost of \$18 per vaccine:

After all, they are getting protection against illness which could run a \$500 to \$800 holiday. According to Ileen Gibson, vaccine market analyst at Merrill Lynch, a typical WHO immunisation programme has a budget of 10 cents (U.S.) per vaccine, per head.

The marketing of new vaccines in the U.K. is a high profile affair and the launch of two new products in June was no exception. Vivotif, produced by Evans Medical, and Typhim Vi from Merieux U.K. were released within days of each other and at a time of high demand as the U.K.'s holiday season gets under way. What is striking is that both companies will be competing to provide immunisation against the same disease: typhoid. Both products claim significant technological advances over existing typhoid vaccines and the launch information stresses the convenience of the new vaccines. Research has told manufacturers that injections are unpopular and current typhoid vaccines require two and possibly three injections spaced out at monthly intervals. Vivotif eliminates the unloved hypodermics and delivers the vaccine orally, in a course of three capsules. Merieux U.K. still use injection for delivery, but their researchers have fine-tuned the components of the Typhim Vi so that only one injection is necessary for a three-year immunity.

Typhoid is caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi* entering the blood stream through the wall of the intestine. The earliest vaccine, developed in Britain in the 1890s, contained killed *S. Typhi* which, although harmless, could induce an immunity when injected into a healthy person. The process was refined, but it has only been in recent years that significant improvements have been achieved.

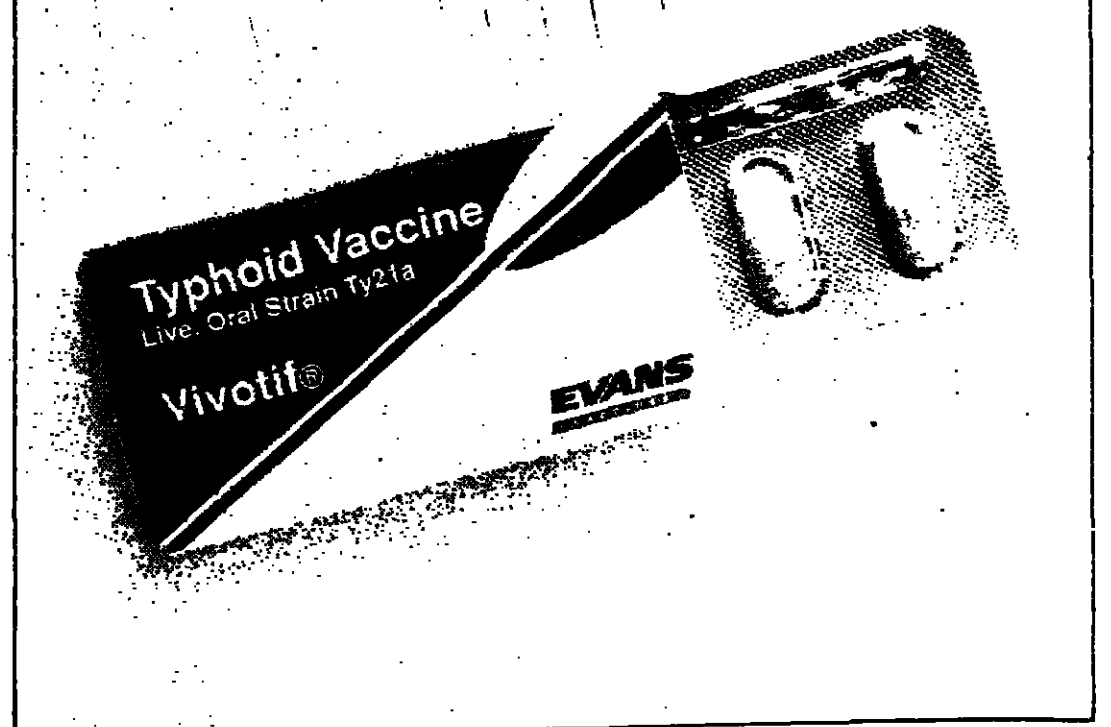
Typhim Vi has been de-

veloped by Merieux to target the immune system with a tiny amount of the "Vi antigen", compared to the "blunderbuss" effect of previous vaccines. Evans Medical, in contrast, have employed a strain of *S. Typhi* known as TY21a and developed in the mid-1970s by the Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute in Berne. This is a live bacterium which has been genetically crippled to stimulate an immunity and then self-destruct. Evans Medical's contribution has been to develop an oral method of delivery.

Today, the WHO is still in the process of assessing how to utilise these new forms of antigens and delivery. According to Dr. Bernard Ivanoff, in charge of vaccine research at the WHO's Programme for Vaccine Development, the end result of the organisation's investigation will be a set of guidelines and parameters to be applied to their production and application. But the admits that the new data has only been under scrutiny by the WHO for a relatively short time.

One person who is doubtful about the usefulness of new vaccines in developing countries is Dr. Ron Behrens, consultant physician in travel and tropical medicine at London's Hospital for Tropical Diseases. His concern is that some manufacturers are giving a higher priority to the demands of the lucrative traveller market than to the needs of countries where diseases are endemic. "Why have these vaccines been developed?" asked Dr. Behrens. "People have not asked for new vaccines, but it has obviously been a top priority of drug manufacturers to produce them and one can cynically ask, what are their motives? Are they for travellers or the endemic disease?" It is the stated aim of the WHO to be directly involved with manufacturers in the development of new and improved vaccines but in the case of Vivotif and Typhim Vi, for the time being, the organisation is more of a spectator than a participant in development.

Part of the WHO's motive for seeking close cooperation with manufacturers is to keep the cost of the finished product down. Dr. Behrens, whose job it is to scrutinise all new vaccine products on the U.K. market, is again critical. "This development has always been expensive and



Unlike all preceding typhoid vaccines, Vivotif is taken orally; refrigerated.

the product is never going to be cheap," he says. "When one looks at the health budget of most of these Third World countries, they couldn't even buy the packaging, so it was unlikely that they were ever going to be able to afford the vaccines."

While a full appraisal of

nificantly reduce logistical costs of large-scale immunisation.

Dr. Pam Lewis, marketing director at Evans Medical, admits that Vivotif, in its present form is not suited to these logistical demands. "Because Vivotif needs to be refrigerated and there are

as their first target.

It has been suggested that a premium should be charged to travellers who can afford to pay and thus subsidise vaccines for developing countries, but Dr. Bryett at Merieux U.K. believes that this already happens. "This is what most vaccine companies are very involved with: They generally use the profit that they generate in the West to provide health care in the Third World, because that helps us keep our volumes up and our factories occupied."

Dr. Ivanoff, at the WHO, acknowledges that the price of vaccines tends to be reduced substantially by manufacturers once the WHO or the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has decided to use them in a programme. He points to cholera and hepatitis vaccines as examples. But for Dr. Behrens in London, the marketing of vaccine research and development needs careful scrutiny. He thinks it likely that an AIDS vaccine will be produced within five to 10 years but, unless agencies like the WHO lay down clear guidelines on how such a vaccine will be funded for use in the Third World, it will remain out of reach. "I suppose the companies are praying that if they have a vaccine, the World Bank or the IMF will say 'we will buy it from you and subsidise the Third World'," Dr. Behrens commented — World News Link.

The issue of the availability of effective vaccines in the countries where diseases are endemic is a politically charged one, but at its heart lies money. Many of the vaccines currently available are just too expensive for use in the Third World.

the technology behind the two vaccines and their use in developing countries is still awaited from the WHO, the makers of Typhim Vi and Vivotif both claim that their current products and those under development will benefit people who are at day-to-day risk, not just travellers. Dr. Kevin Bryett is the director of medical services at Merieux U.K., which has plans to launch Typhim Vi worldwide, and he sees developing countries benefiting most from single-shot vaccines like Typhim Vi. "The biggest hurdle in the Third World," Dr. Bryett explains "is getting the patient to the doctor or nurse." A single-shot vaccine instead of the current two or three shot course, he suggests, will sig-

three capsules," Dr. Lewis suggests "it may pose logistical problems for Third World countries." But Evans Medical sees oral delivery as the future for vaccines, in particular in developing countries where they can eliminate the need for the skills of hard-pressed medics and avoid risks of infection through unsterilised needles. "If we can produce a single-dose vaccine and obviate the need for a cold chain (refrigerated storage)," Dr. Lewis says, "that in itself will save Third World countries an awful lot in distribution." The Evans Medical research team is also investigating ways of combining two different kinds of vaccines in a single dose, with a combined typhoid and tetanus vaccine



Dr. Ron Behrens, consultant physician at London's Hospital for Tropical Diseases, is concerned that

the cost of new vaccines puts them out of the reach of needy countries where diseases are endemic.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NUMEROLOGY

By Joel Davajan

ACROSS
1 Tense
6 Police team
10 Shakespearean villain
14 Curves
18 Copyrighted cow
20 A guttural
21 Fat-bottomed boat
22 Sen — Cal
23 Drama lecturer
25 Hidden movie
27 Sail song
28 Turned around
30 Most modern
31 Mrs. Tracy
32 Scribe
33 Well-ventilated
34 "Tuesdays in the Park" name
37 Contempt
38 Priestly robes
39 Different abbr.

DOWN
1 Tensest work
2 Coleridge's second river
3 Consumer
4 XXX
5 Hamilton's title
6 Smoothies' wood
7 Play of "Yang Keng"
8 "The Greatest" author
9 "War and Peace" author
10 Emerging
11 Tread the boards
12 Prod
13 Temple mascot
14 Mystery writer's pen name
15 UK
16 Gutter
17 Protection

Diagramless 21 x 21, By James Warwick

ACROSS
1 Out
4 Rehearse
11 Five: prefix
12 Knight's protection
13 Hand key
14 Rose or flag
15 Rock part
16 Beer
17 — King Cole

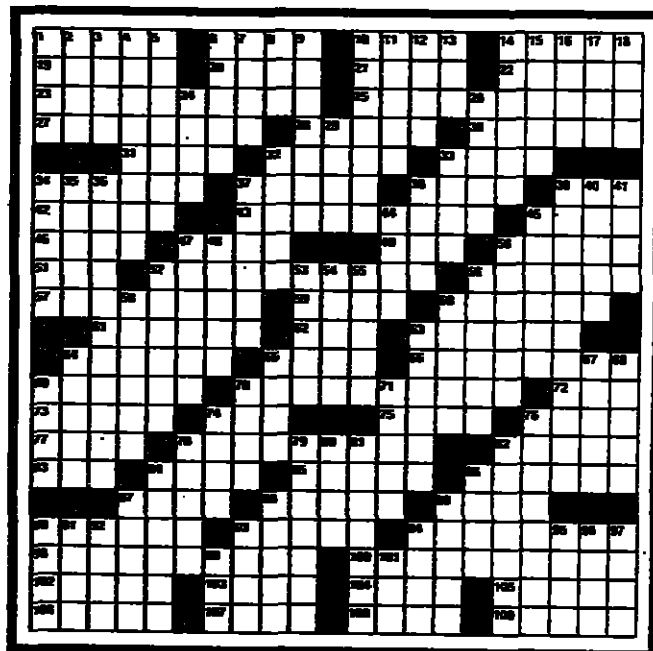
DOWN
1 Road for roasting
2 Jacob's son
3 Spout
4 Light
5 Livestock feed
6 Mourning
7 Nursery item
8 The first maker
9 Standoffish one
10 Item for a draftsman

42 Strong winds
43 Deep US space probe
45 Note —
46 Archaic substitute
47 — a clock
50 "The Claviers and the Harp"
51 Alvaro or
52 Alexander
53 Musical Day
54 Young woman
57 Follow
59 General Bradley
60 Historic
61 Kubrick's "A Clockwork" —
62 Strong container

18 "Horn" — gal met
19 Person
20 Coach Fielding —
21 Captain
22 Zephora's beloved
23 Quack breed
24 Touchdown
25 Dr. marketplace
26 Crippled
27 Dramatic TV series
28 Litter
29 War god
30 Victorian film
40 S. Am. range
41 Spot
42 Always
43 Crush thoroughly
47 — honorable
48 Cider
49 Chopped rice

20 Plague
21 Gloomy
22 Water wheel
23 Lag behind
24 Western
25 Change
26 Not at all thin
27 Irrigate
28 Fashion
29 Brownish color
30 Disapprove of

18 Direction indicator
19 Jeweled headband
20 Drilled
21 Occupation
22 Family men
23 Fine spray
24 Drugs
25 Kind of lay
26 Scarlet



Last Week's Cryptogram

1. Verify, if you think life's perpetual catastrophes can be avoided by staying ahead, think again.
2. His lunch comes with market profit to make his success.
3. Years ago, stylish gals would wear their plaid plus fours.
4. Unconquered surgeon found a tumor, but his lung was sliced from waist.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. U EFSMYT KAWBUSLAWN CUP YBFLP YA
NLCU U GPS SWEET KUIPT GUB YA MFM
ARYHAPATYPT.

—By Lois H. Jones

2. SJQH JZLY SACY KALK JYLY JB
MQZZL EJJXDLV BJY SDX JARDZE JZ
EDV ZLT CQNEH.

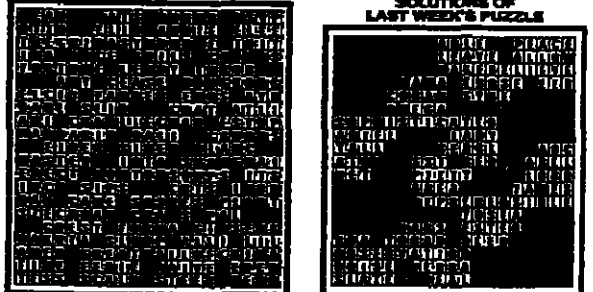
—By Sam Ireland

3. QJFLLZ NOTR ROMFY QL AJSGTP AG
BPMCAQ JOKYPUN AG LUFZOTX XSXEPF
JFFRUOTP SPFB: TG SPORT GT YXGQTA
GR BYEP.

—By Eugene T. Malachuk

4. KZXAO PEEX LT GR IKKNEX PETROLZX
MYLIXT ET ZXX GYKXOT.

—By Barbara J. Rugg



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Cell transplant can mimic missing pancreas

BOSTON (R) — U.S. medical researchers have successfully transplanted pancreas cells into five patients and eliminated their need for insulin in a definitive study which may someday control and prevent diabetes.

The results, reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, occurred in volunteers suffering from painful inflammation of the pancreas. Cells in the pancreas, known as islets, produce the insulin that keeps blood sugar

in check. While the patients were still in the operating room, islets were extracted from the pancreas and injected into a vein so they could find new homes in the body.

The patients have been followed for between one and seven-and-a-half years. None has needed insulin injections, even though their pancreases are gone.

The patients who received the most islets showed the best response following the

transplant, and the team concluded that the patient who received 265,000 islet cells would fare best. Two patients received over 400,000.

The technique has been successful before, said the team led by Dr. Kathryn Pyzdrowski of the University of Minnesota.

But it was not clear previously that the treatment was effective. It was possible the pancreas had not been completely removed, leaving a lingering suspicion that remnants of the organ were

keeping blood sugar levels in check.

Drs. Clyde Barker and Ali Naji of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine said in an accompanying editorial that the newest finding provides the clearest evidence yet that transplanted islets "are capable of adequate, although not completely normal, function."

Islet cell transplants, they said, may someday become a way to control and prevent diabetes.

Middle-age women less likely than men to have heart disease

By Carolyn S. Carlson
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — White women under 65 are half as likely as white men in that age group to get heart disease, even if they smoke or are overweight, a federal health study found.

But the rate of coronary heart disease among women accelerates after age 65 and is almost the same as men after age 75, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said.

Women, like men, have a

higher risk for heart disease if they have diabetes or hypertension, smoke or are overweight, the study said. But two factors affected women differently than men — age and high cholesterol levels.

The study found that twice as many men as women between ages 25 and 64 had heart disease, and the rate among men increased even as they grew older, while the rate among women jumped after age 65. After 75, the ratio was four women with heart disease for every five

men with the illness.

"It could be the reason women catch up with men is that they lose estrogen as they get older," said CDC epidemiologist, Kate Brett. "But there's still an increase that can't be explained by the estrogen. It's such a dramatic change, and it doesn't occur only at the time of menopause."

Men with a total cholesterol level of 240 or higher were more likely to have heart disease than women with similar counts, the study found.

Ms. Brett said that could be because women with high cholesterol levels have more of the so-called good cholesterol, which is increased by estrogen. The finding mainly indicates a need to study further the elements of cholesterol, she said. The study examined 12,402 people.

The study also found that a low socioeconomic status, indicated by having less than a high-school education, was a slightly greater risk factor for women than men.

هناك احتفال

Government under criticism

(Continued from page 1)

in the south of Jordan the government interferes, why does it not feel that it has to be neutral in this case?" A Rifai supporter told the Jordan Times.

Although expressed in varying degrees of frustration, politicians and analysts say they are criticizing the "hands-off policy" which has become symptomatic of Sharif Zeid's government in dealing with issues discussed in Parliament.

But what are the driving forces for neutrality on Sharif Zeid's part? Analysts agree that in light of the fact that democracy is in its infancy and that relations and positions are still determined by personal or tribal affiliations, the government has one good reason to be neutral and to avoid conflict within its own ranks.

A former senior official said that Sharif Zeid is aware of the personal element of the case and therefore is also aware of his government's limits in imposing any particular position on them. Over and above that, other politicians agree, Sharif Zeid has established an image of himself as a "statesman who talks to every body and stays above political bickering among different factions."

And in response to the barrage of accusations, government officials who advocate an officially neutral position said the government — the eight deputy-min-

isters excluded — simply had no constitutional function in that debate.

They agree that the government is looking more like a coalition of persons rather than a unified body and maintain that that is the way it should be, especially on cases where personal conclusions determine how a deputy-minister would vote. "In this case you have to see the government as individuals and not as a body," an analyst close to the government's thinking said in an interview.

The government argument is that the House debate over the "corruption case" could not be classified as a political session of the House. Officials admit that it may have political ramifications but insist that it was a legal case and as such the government cannot have a function.

According to lawyers and officials contacted by the Jordan Times, ministers who were not members of the Lower House are not allowed to interfere in the debate which was taking place and were not furnished with copies of the parliamentary panel's recommendation for the indictment of the three officials. "They have to be watchers because they do not have a role," said a lawyer who supported the government's position of neutrality. "The only people who had a role from the government were the ministers who were also deputies."

Press approach to debate

(Continued from page 1)

The gaping holes in local media tackling of the case, according to Mr. Sharif, also owe a lot to the concerned "editors' personal approach."

"Their (levels) of courage, initiative, perspectives and will played a highly influential role in limiting the coverage," he said. "Columnists were no different."

Ironically, Mr. Sharif pointed out, the newspapers had to pick up the cue from the state-run Jordan Television to break the tradition of holding back the names of the officials who were named by the House investigations committee.

Having done that, it was a new experience for the press. "No-one got arrested, no newspapers were closed and no-one was called in for questioning," Mr. Sharif noted.

However, the most visible shortcoming of the media, according to Mr. Sharif, was that they spread rumors. "Everything that is said in Parliament was doing a job in the supposed to do and entrusted with the electorate — supervising the work of the government and bring in accountability."

Precisely this point was hammered on during the actual House session by many deputies from the Muslim Brotherhood and leftist groups which led the effort to have the former officials indicted. They lamented that the press was not doing its job and did not rise to the challenge the occasion presented. If anything, they said, the press appeared to be ignoring the entire issue and its importance to political life in Jordan.

"I call on the media of this country to seek truth in the coverage of this just case as much as (they) are careful to be fair and true in covering soccer games and Jerash festivals," said Abdul Munem Abu Zant, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

"I urge our media to respond positively to the desires of the Jordanian people and their representatives in Parliament lest the media be deterred and forced to become obedient," Sheikh Abu Zant said in his address to the House Monday.

Deputy Mohammad Ahmad Al Haj went one step further and accused the press of apathy. "Our people today are celebrating and overjoyed, although this is not shared by our information services and media, (which are) accustomed to belittling such events," he told the house. "The media and information services did not even mention this historic day."

Deputy Hani Mansour assailed the press for "ignoring the subject," and said: "The mass media belong to the people and, as such, should reflect the pulses of the people and Lower House of Parliament. Otherwise question marks will be put on every practice which is not consistent with the spirit of the people and their concerns."

There were also arguments against going public with the debate through the media. Abdul Majid Shureideh of the conservative Constitutional Bloc argued that it would look bad for Jordan if "such dirty linen is washed in public," and would adversely on prospects of foreign assistance to the Kingdom if "corruption" was made out to be rampant in the country.

Other deputies countered this line of thinking saying that public debate and admission of past shortcomings in Jordan would prove to the Kingdom's friends that there is a mechanism for accountability and thus encourage them to extend further help to the country.

Foreign observers agreed with this argument and said they would definitely like to have seen much more detailed and in-depth coverage of the issue not only because of their desire for information but also as a reaffirmation that a strong-willed free press is evolving in Jordan.

"They missed yet another opportunity to assume the lead in shaping public opinion," said a non-Jordanian Arab journalist who preferred anonymity. "It was an opportunity where they could

have shaped opinions and played a crucial role in the political evolution."

"I believe that almost the entire coverage of the issue was subjective and there was very little apparent effort to be objective," said the journalist. "One would have expected detailed commentaries and reports in the local press rather than articles that either lead nowhere or follow the usually treaded path of official thinking."

At the same time, there are also arguments that whatever did get into print in the local press was indeed an achievement, given the right restrictions that Jordanian editors, columnists and reporters have been used to over the years.

"I think the media did an excellent job when seen against their experience over the years," said Dr. Ihsan Misa, head of the Mass Communications and Journalism Department of Yarmouk University.

Despite everything, this is a country where a silver lining on the horizon in the form of the experience and the lessons that the Jordanian media picked up from the episode.

Mr. Sharif summed up this widely-held optimism that the Jordanian journalists would fare much better as they get along further in the national democratization process.

"This is not the final round," said Mr. Sharif. "There are going to be instances of this nature in the future and by then the Jordanian media would have learnt its lessons and be up to expectations."

Protest staged in Tafileh

(Continued from page 1)

Tafileh deputies only voted to indict Mr. Rifai and Mr. Odeh. The deputies, Ibrahim Gababshah and Fuad Khalafat, abstained from voting for the indictment of Mr. Hawamdeh.

Independent political observers said Wednesday that the singling out of Mr. Akaileh in the protesters' statement indicated that the protest was "more tribal than anything else."

"Had the only one indicted been from Salt, Irbid, Amman or from a refugee camp there would have been no calls of 'unfair play' from Tafileh," said a political analyst in Amman.

Laith Shbeilat, chairman of the House Investigations Committee which brought charges against the three former government officials and who is also a native of Tafileh

although he represents Amman in the Lower House, called the protest "illegal."

Mr. Shbeilat said that the protest march was instigated by "right-wing, pro-establishment, pro-corruption forces in the south who want things to stay the same." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Shbeilat, a veteran parliamentarian who represented Tafileh in Parliament during the last government of Rifai, disputed the figures quoted by locals in Tafileh. "My sources say there were no more than 50 people in front of the governor's office not 1,500," he said.

Tafileh is a town of less than 100,000 people and, like many towns in the south, it witnessed price riots in April 1989 which led to the downfall of the Rifai government and free parliamentary elections.

Husseini

(Continued from page 1)

housing for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"The credibility of the peace process stems from the credibility of the Americans. If the Americans will not be decent, the credibility will not be there. The peace process will fall apart," Mr. Husseini said.

Both sides have been reluctant to reveal details of their proposals before the start of the next round of talks.

But Mr. Husseini confirmed Wednesday that the Palestinians would demand to establish a strong police force in the occupied territories. Reports have said the Palestinians want a 20,000-member force.

Mr. Husseini suggested it was necessary, in part, to quell radical Palestinian factions trying to sabotage agreement with Israel.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A Speech/Communication female Clinician position in a model program for boys 8 to 12 years of age is available for fall 1992. Applicants should send a letter of application, resume, and three letters of recommendation to: P.O.Box 2700, Riyadh 11461, Saudi Arabia - Attn: Rumo

RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibilities of the position are as follows:

- Assess each student's communication skills.
- Participate in the team process. Team with other team members to develop and implement Individualized Education Plans (IEP's).
- Work with the educational staff to plan activities that incorporate strategies for meeting communication objectives throughout the day.
- Provide assistance and support in the classroom to implement communication strategies.
- Provide individual speech/communication therapy to students who need it.
- Consult with parents and provide strategies and information for maintenance and continuation of communication skills at home and provide the necessary training.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology.
- Two years' experience working with children with communication/speech/language delays.
- Training in the model program (will be provided).
- Ability to generalize principles into practical practice.
- Ability to work effectively as a team member.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A full-time Special Education female Teacher position in a model program for children 8 to 12 years of age is available for fall 1992. Applicants should send a letter of application, resume, and three letters of recommendation to P.O.Box 2700, Riyadh 11461, Saudi Arabia - Attn: Rumo.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibilities of the position are as follows:

- Classroom management, develop and follow a well balanced classroom schedule, arrange classroom according to model standards, use non-aversive behaviour management interventions, identify specific responsibilities of the educational assistant.
- Participate in the team process. Team with other team members to develop and implement Individualized Education Plans (IEP's).
- Develop daily lesson plans to meet individual and group objectives.
- Implement lesson plans.
- Take daily data. Measure pupil progress toward meeting objectives and continue or change instruction based on these data.
- Work with consultants to develop a functional curriculum to meet individual needs.
- Update IEP's twice yearly, summarize progress at mid-term and at the end of the school year, report up-dates to parents.
- Conduct parent conferences, provide and maintain communication with parents.
- Participate in training to implement the model program.
- Supervise the instructional assistant.
- Supervise student teachers and work with University faculty to assure that training requirements are met.
- Maintain a safe environment conducive to learning.
- Prepare instructional materials.
- Order classroom supplies and materials.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Masters degree in Special Education.
- Two years' experience teaching students with special needs.
- Specialized training in the model program (will be provided).
- Ability to generalize principles into practical practice.
- Ability to work effectively as team member.
- Ability to gather, organize, and analyze classroom data.
- Ability to write IEP's and reports.
- Ability to communicate well with parents.

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Gold medal favourite barely stays alive in decathlon



BARCELONA (AP) — Gold medal favourite Dave Johnson barely stayed alive in the decathlon Wednesday, receiving a fourth chance in the shot put after an official ruled he fouled on all three of his throws.

The official raised the red flag on each of Johnson's throws to signify a foul, but the referee overruled the official and ordered the American to be given another throw.

The Spanish and Czechoslovak teams filed a protest against the referee's decision to give Johnson a fourth throw. The protest was expected to be heard by a seven-member appeals jury before the decathlon continued Wednesday night with the high jump.

Fans booed Johnson as he left the shot put area after the fourth throw.

Johnson would have been allowed to stay in the 10-event competition even if he had fouled on all three throws—but the lack of any points in the shot put would have taken him out of medal contention.

"The other guy was there and said there was no foul," Johnson told the other competitors as they stood perplexed in the shot put area. "I got another throw."

Johnson agreed that he had fouled on his first two throws, but said his third throw was fair. He said his left foot was on the side of the toe board, a barrier at the edge of the throwing circle, which is allowable.

"It is a foul if a competitor's foot goes on top of the toe board or leaves the circle."

After the red flag went up, Johnson immediately protested to the referee.

His fourth throw went 15.28 metres (50 feet, 1 3/4 inches), a personal best and eighth among all competitors. It earned Johnson 807 points, leaving him in ninth place overall after three events with 2,525 points.

The leader was Robert Zmelik of Czechoslovakia with 2,698.

The first drug disqualification of the track and field competition was announced Wednesday. Madina Biktagirova of the Unified Team, who finished fourth in Saturday's marathon, tested positive for Norephedrine, a banned stimulant.

World champion Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria and Tatjana Dorovskikh, silver medalist Sunday in the Olympic 3,000 metres, qualified for the semifinals of the women's 1,500 metres. The leading time in the first round was 4:07.40 by Qu Yunxia of China.

In the women's 100-metre hurdles, Gail Devers of the United

States, reached Wednesday night's second round with a time of 13.19 seconds. Devers, who won the 100-metre dash Saturday, is seeking to become the first woman to win the two races in the Olympics.

The games finally are beginning for Carl Lewis and Mike Powell of the United States and for Sergei Bubka of the Unified Team.

Lewis, who has won six gold medals, will make what is expected to be his last appearance in an individual Olympic event when he battles world champion Powell in the long jump.

Lewis dominated long jumping for a decade, winning Olympic gold medals in 1984 and 1988 and going undefeated in 65 straight competitions. Powell broke that streak and set the world record of 8.95 metres (29 feet, 4 1/2 inches) while winning at the world championships last summer in Tokyo.

Powell defeated Lewis again at the U.S. Olympic trials in June, but Lewis—who also won medals in the 100 and 200 metres at the last two Olympics—failed to qualify for the sprints this time and has focused solely on the long jump.

A 30-foot jump, which for decades had seemed impossible, might be necessary just to win Olympic gold in Barcelona.

Bubka, the world's best pole vaulter, began his quest for another Olympic title by easily qualifying for Friday's final. He won gold four years ago in Seoul and has broken the pole vault record 30 times while dominating the event for a decade.

Asia has its day

It was Asia's day at the Olympics, thanks in part to a South Korean archer who calmed down by walking through a cemetery and a badminton player who felt the full weight of Indonesia's medal hopes.

The inclusion of badminton as an Olympic medal sport for the first time also helped. Indonesia won its first Olympic gold ever by sweeping the men's and women's badminton singles Tuesday. South Korea took the two doubles.

China, meanwhile, was challenging Germany for third place in the overall medal standings, although it suffered one blow—one of its women volleyball players was expelled after testing positive for a banned stimulant drug.

Its two golds for the day—in its nearly private preserves of diving and table tennis—gave it 15 for the games and 48 medals in all. Germany had 16 gold among 51 medals with five days of competition left.

China was assured of at least one gold Wednesday. Both finalists in women's table tennis singles were Chinese.

The Unified Team of former Soviet athletes gained only one gold Tuesday, in super-

heavyweight weightlifting. It still led the standings with 33 golds and 81 medals in all.

The United States, winless Tuesday, had 20 and 68, but its basketball "dream team" rolled into the semifinals with a 115-77 victory over Puerto Rico. It meets Lithuania Thursday, and the Unified Team plays Croatia.

Cuba's own dream team, in baseball, moved into the finals by beating the Americans 6-1. On Wednesday, it meets Taiwan, a 5-2 semifinal winner over Japan.

Cuba, which boycotted the 1984 and 1988 games, also had nine semifinalists in boxing.

Morocco regained a gold it had lost Monday night, when officials held that a teammate had illegally helped Khalid Skah of Morocco win his 10,000-metre race by blocking Kenya's Richard Chelimo.

An International Amateur Athletics Federation jury decided that no rules had been broken. That left Chelimo, who had finished 1.02 seconds behind, with the silver medal.

Kenya said it would protest now, but Aish Jeneby, the team's assistant general manager, added: "We Kenyans are fighters. When we lose in one event, we regroup.... You watch us tomorrow."

South Korean archer Cho Yoon-Jeong, already the women's individual gold medalist, helped her nation beat China for the team gold.

"I get very nervous and fearful about every competition," said Cho, who teamed with two other women to defend South Korea's 1988 gold medal. "So I take long walks at night through the cemetery. It calms me down."

Spain won the men's team title, defeating Finland in the final. It was the host team's 10th gold.

In badminton, women's singles winner Susi Susanti said, "I was under pressure because everybody in Indonesia pinned their hopes on me as I was the one who had the most chances of winning the gold medal."

She did it by beating South Korea's Bang Soo-Hyun 5-11, 11-3, 11-3. Teammate Alan Budi Kusuma defeated fellow Indonesian Ardy Wiranata 15-12, 18-13 for the men's singles gold.

China won its third gold medal in the games four diving events as 16-year-old Sun Shuwei won the men's platform competition. Xiong ni took the bronze, and China ended up with five of the 12 total medals. It had two golds and six medals in 1980.

American Scott Donie won the platform silver medal.

China also won the men's table tennis doubles, with Lu Lin and Wang Tao defeating Germany's Steffen Fetzner and Jorg Rosskopf.

After volleyball player Wu Dan, 24, tested positive for Strychnine, a stimulant, Wei Jizhong, secretary-general of China's Olympic Committee, said, "Wu did not feel well before the

Medals table

BARCELONA (R) — Olympic medals table after the seventh day of competition Saturday (tabulated: Gold, silver, bronze):

| Team | G | S | B |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| CIS | 33 | 28 | 20 |
| United States | 20 | 26 | 22 |
| Germany | 16 | 13 | 22 |
| China | 15 | 19 | 14 |
| Hungary | 10 | 7 | 2 |
| Spain | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| South Korea | 9 | 3 | 9 |
| France | 7 | 5 | 13 |
| Australia | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| Canada | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Italy | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Romania | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Britain | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Cuba | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Japan | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Poland | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Netherlands | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Czechoslovakia | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Indonesia | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Norway | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Turkey | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| New Zealand | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Brazil | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Denmark | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| North Korea | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Estonia | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Greece | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Morocco | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Sweden | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Austria | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Belgium | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Yugoslavia | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Finland | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Israel | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Latvia | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Jamaica | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kenya | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Namibia | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Peru | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slovenia | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Bahamas | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ethiopia | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malaysia | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mongolia | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Surinam | 0 | 0 | 1 |

match and took some herbal medicine which she did not know to contain the banned substance.

The incident was treated as an honest, though serious, mistake.

The chairman of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission, Prince Alexandre de Merode, told reporters, "she was very sincere.... It's an unfortunate case, but we have to apply the necessary sanctions."

In these games' final weightlifting event, defending champion Alexandre Kourlovitch won with a total of 450 kilograms (992 pounds). Teammate Leonid Taranenko never approached his own world record of 475 (1,048.5 pounds), and ended with the silver with 425 (937 pounds).

The Unified Team wound up with five gold medals while the five others went to Bulgaria, South Korea, Greece, Turkey and Germany.

Krabbe tests positive for drugs



Karin Krabbe

BARCELONA (R) — Double world athletics sprint champion Karin Krabbe has tested positive for drugs during out-of-competition tests during the past few weeks, two leading German sports officials said Wednesday.

The officials confirmed independently a report from the German News Agency (SID) that Krabbe and her teammate Grit Breuer had tested positive for steroids during three different tests in the past month.

Asked if the tests from the athletes had tested positive for drugs, one official told Reuters: "I cannot contradict that."

Reacting to the SID report which said traces of a banned steroid had been found in the athletes' urine another said, "I have seen what SID have written and they are not lying. I am not saying any more than that."

Both officials asked not to be named.

Krabbe decided against competing at the Barcelona Olympics. She said the pressure was too great following another drugs affair in which she and two other former east German team athletes were alleged to have manipulated urine samples.

The officials said Krabbe and Breuer had undergone two tests during training in their home town of Neubrandenburg in early July. Dope testers appeared at the track without giving advance warning.

Soon afterwards they were each tested twice again on different days during another training camp in the eastern German town of Zianowitz.

SID said in a report from the Barcelona Olympics Tuesday that the three A-samples had tested positive.

The officials confirmed that the B-samples (second samples) would not be analysed until after the Barcelona games.

Athletes always give two urine samples during a drugs test. When the first one tests positive, then the second sample is tested to confirm the result before action can be taken. SID said the samples had contained the anabolic steroid Clenbuterol.

The tests in Neubrandenburg were taken just days after Krabbe, Breuer and Silke Meckel had returned from London. They had been cleared of a four-year ban for alleged manipulation of doping samples during out-of-competition tests in January.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some unexpected opposition by a partner should be discounted based on the circumstances of the moment. It is important that you don't react. Keep dealing with what is vital to you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You see how you can add charm and value to whatever your own creative ideas happen to be and you can get your special talent before others.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You gain immediately today by making a point of being very complimentary to whoever you come in contact and especially usual associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look at your possessions and see what you can do to add to their intrinsic worth while you also can find some way to invest small sums of money.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to spend a little more than usual on yourself and it matter not whether for personal appearance or pleasures.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can do those things that will greatly delight the one of whom you are most fond so keep all of your off hours when not working for that use.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Join with as many friends and

acquaintances as possible today and be more gregarious and you can make some very good and delightful contacts.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can wow whomever you come in contact with in the world of outside activity and influential persons so get all dolled up, go out on the town.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Encourage the association possible with a newcomer by being understanding of their persons needs and showing you want to be a close friend.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind about dealing with a business person can be made to work by showing that person your interest in their views.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Show a partner that you value their alliance by keeping promises you have made to that person with a smile and you get a lasting ally.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Add that touch of beauty and efficiency to your surroundings so that you will be more comfortable there as well as it being more attractive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) One of your best days to engage in those entertainments and amusements which mean the most to you in the company with chosen companions.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some unexpected annoyance by a partner should be totally discounted but the rest of the day brings agreeable and pleasant events. Show others that you have real affection for them.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid a strange condition between a family member and an outsider after which you find that conditions at your residence takes an upswing for the better.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well the various communications and messages facing you early for they can present a problem but all works out well if you are astute.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about whatever you do of a practical nature early or you could get involved in an unwise cul-de-sac while later you see ways to handle money matters wisely.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a morning when you can be taken in by some circumstances that is not at all what it appears and only by close study does the truth become yours.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You feel your pride is being assailed early but you need to rise above such an erroneous conclusion at present soon the true situation evolves for you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well whatever a friend expects of you for all is not

as it appears on the surface and you are apt to draw a wrong conclusion, later you savor actual facts.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find a public outlet of demands other than you had anticipated but later you are able to get one who is an expert to back you in a practical matter.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A communication from afar raises a question you do not quite get the meaning of but think about it and find it can be turned very much to your gain.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't question some statement or account until you have investigated it thoroughly then you will be able to handle the issue intelligently.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An associate does something you do not feel is cricket but appearances belie the actual situation so don't judge and you later understand the real situation.

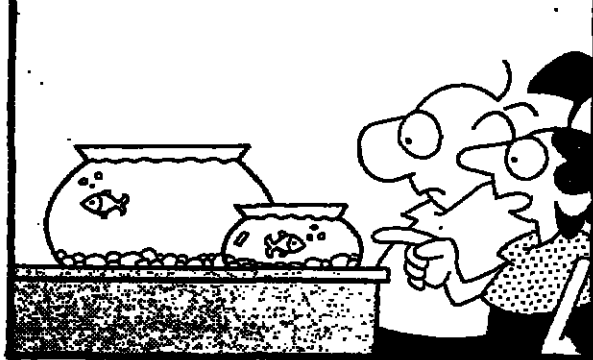
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for a difference way to approach an obstacle on your job then you will find that everything goes along fine and a highrump approves.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A pleasure in which you wish to engage in seems to have some ramifications too rich for your blood but they can be lessened by your intelligence.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 7-18



"He forgot their anniversary so he has to sleep in the guest bowl!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COUFS

SOKYM

UNISCO

LIEDEY



WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID THE HYPOCHONDRIAC HAD.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: GUARD ITCHY BELFRY LEGUME

Answer: He has the "wool" pulled over his eyes and is then this—"FLEECE"

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A4 ♣KQ72 ♠AQ96 ♠74
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 ♠
Pass

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A10 ♣10 ♠A6 ♠AKQJ9843
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass
Pass

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q10864 ♠AQ ♠A ♠Q963
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q10864 ♠AQ ♠A ♠Q963
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A4 ♣KQ72 ♠AQ96 ♠74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass

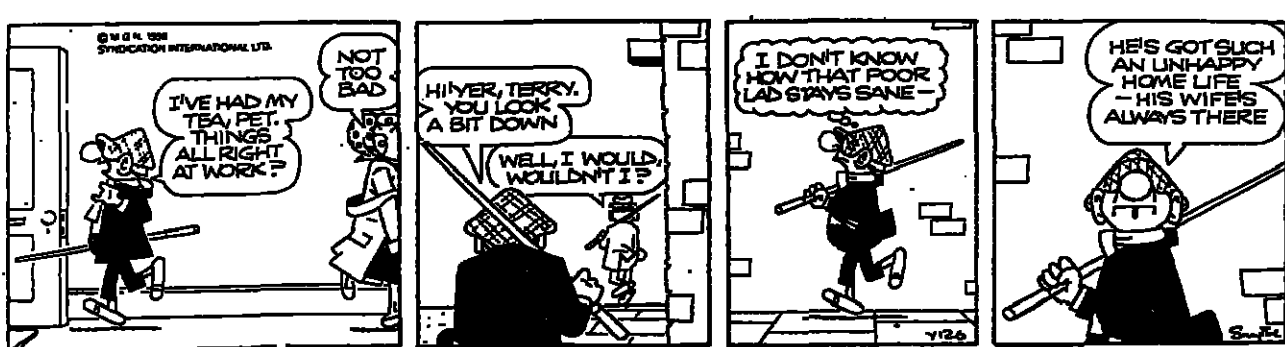
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q10864 ♠AQ ♠A ♠Q963
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q10864 ♠AQ ♠A ♠Q963
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass

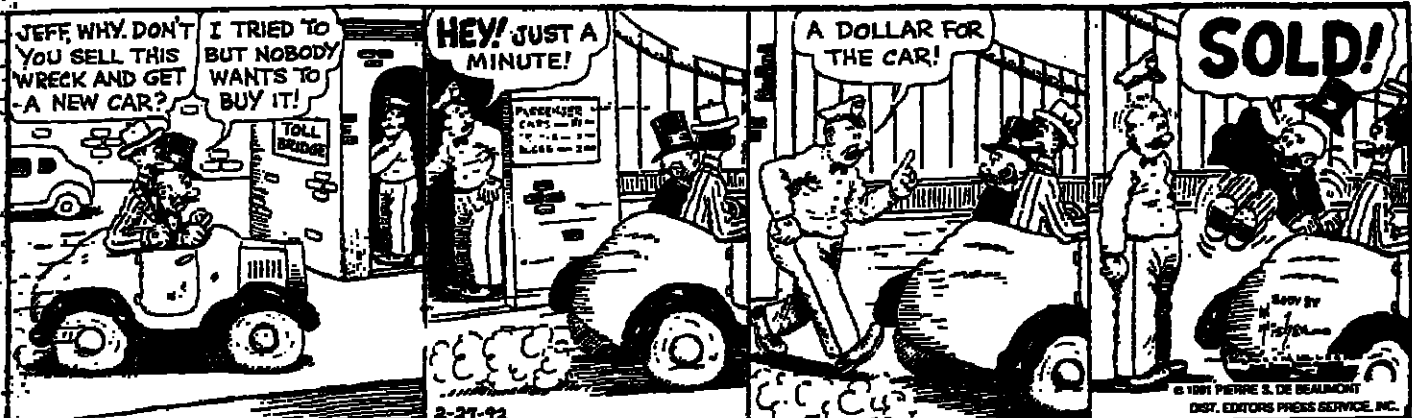
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



كرباجا كمال

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

| Currency | NEW YORK CLOSE 4/8/92 | TOKYO CLOSE 5/8/92 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.9199 | 3.9170 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.4772 | 3.4771 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.3240 | 1.3255 |
| French Franc | 2.9905 | 2.9905 |
| Japanese Yen | 127.25 | 127.30 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.3805 | 1.3798 |

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTH | 6 MONTH | 12 MONTH |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| U.S. Dollar | 3.25 | 3.31 | 3.50 | 3.75 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.06 | 10.25 | 10.31 | 10.25 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.62 | 9.75 | 9.81 | 9.81 |
| Swiss Franc | 8.12 | 8.12 | 8.25 | 8.37 |
| French Franc | 9.87 | 10.18 | 10.12 | 10.25 |
| Japanese Yen | 4.06 | 4.00 | 3.87 | 3.81 |
| European Currency Unit | 10.87 | 10.87 | 10.87 | 10.87 |

Interbank bid rates for currencies trading U.S. Dollars 1.0000 as equivalent.

| Currency | U.S. Dollar | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTH | 6 MONTH | 12 MONTH |
|----------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Gold | 353.55 | 6.84 | 6.84 | 6.84 | 6.84 |

| Currency | U.S. Dollar | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTH | 6 MONTH | 12 MONTH |
|----------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.668 | 0.670 | 0.670 | 0.670 | 0.670 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.2786 | 1.2850 | 1.2850 | 1.2850 | 1.2850 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4514 | 0.4537 | 0.4537 | 0.4537 | 0.4537 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.5092 | 0.5097 | 0.5097 | 0.5097 | 0.5097 |
| French Franc | 0.1337 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.5244 | 0.5270 | 0.5270 | 0.5270 | 0.5270 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.4005 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.1244 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0598 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02197 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 |

| Currency | U.S. Dollar | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTH | 6 MONTH | 12 MONTH |
|----------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
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| French Franc | 0.1337 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 |
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| Dutch Guilder | 0.4005 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.1244 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0598 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02197 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 |

| Index | 3/8/92 | Close | 4/8/92 | Close |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| All-Share | 140.12 | 140.23 | 140.23 | 140.23 |
| Banking Sector | 102.16 | 102.23 | 102.23 | 102.23 |
| Insurance Sector | 150.30 | 150.19 | 150.19 | 150.19 |
| Industry Sector | 192.18 | 192.30 | 192.30 | 192.30 |
| Services Sector | 185.20 | 185.86 | 185.86 | 185.86 |

Source: J.S. 1992 = Jan

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| One Sterling | 1.9160/70 | U.S. dollar | 0.668/0.670 |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1833/38 | Canadian dollar | 0.01850 |
| | 1.4772/77 | Deutsche mark | 0.1775 |
| | 1.6655/65 | Dutch guilder | 2.4900 |
| | 1.3235/45 | Swiss franc | 2.3300 |
| | 30.40/41 | Belgian franc | 0.1813 |
| | 4.9900/50 | French franc | 0.1825 |
| | 111.6/117 | Italian lire | 0.0210 |
| | 127.25/30 | Japanese yen | 1.7800 |
| | 5.3630/80 | Spanish peseta | 0.1813 |
| | 5.8090/140 | Norwegian crown | 0.3670 |
| | 5.6825/75 | Danish crown | 1.5630 |
| One ounce of gold | 350.50/351.00 | U.S. dollars | 1.5830 |

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

| Currency | NEW YORK CLOSE 4/8/92 | TOKYO CLOSE 5/8/92 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jordanian Dinar | 1.9199 | 3.9170 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.4772 | 3.4771 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.3240 | 1.3255 |
| French Franc | 2.9905 | 2.9905 |
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| French Franc | 0.1337 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 | 0.1344 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.5244 | 0.5270 | 0.5270 | 0.5270 | 0.5270 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.4005 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 | 0.4025 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.1244 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 | 0.1250 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0598 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 | 0.0601 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02197 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 | 0.02208 |

Source: J.S. 1992 = Jan

IMF set to approve \$1 billion loan to Russia despite concern about commitment to reform

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is set to approve a \$1 billion loan to Russia despite some misgivings about Moscow's commitment to painful economic reform, monetary sources said.

Those doubts, which are being voiced privately by some, but not all sources, have been fuelled by increasingly vocal opposition in Russia to President Boris Yeltsin's reform plan.

But they are unlikely to be strong enough to derail the \$1 billion credit, which has already been backed publicly by President George Bush and other leaders of the industrial world.

"The IMF has little choice but to provide the \$1 billion," said Robert Hormatz, vice chairman of Investment Banker Goldman Sachs International. "The West has got to demonstrate its support for Yeltsin and his reforms."

The \$1 billion loan will be the IMF's first credit to Russia and should pave the way for other

financial assistance from the West, including a full-scale rescheduling of the former Soviet Union's \$65 billion foreign debt.

It is likely to be followed by a \$600 million loan from the IMF's sister organization, the World Bank (WB), for Russia to buy critical imports.

Although some bank sources are worried that money will end up being frittered away, the bank's board is expected to back the loan, again as much for political as economic reasons.

To win the IMF's support, Russia has promised to slash its budget deficit to the equivalent of five per cent of its total output, or Gross Domestic Product (GDP), by the end of the year, from over 20 per cent for all of the former Soviet Union in 1991.

Monetary sources said that Mr. Yeltsin still seems committed to that goal, even though some of the tax increases he had planned to help reach that objective have

Bank of Israel head takes plan to U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, hoping to secure \$10 billion of frozen U.S. loan guarantees, is sending its Central Bank Governor to Washington with an economic reform plan, an official said on Tuesday.

Governor Jacob Frenkel, a free marketeer, will try to pave the way for new Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to get the assistance from President George Bush without too many strings, a senior treasury official said.

Mr. Rabin, who topped right-wing leader Yitzhak Shamir in a June election, will meet Mr. Bush on August 10.

Mr. Bush withheld the guarantees, needed to absorb a flood of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, to pressure Mr. Shamir into halting the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin has vowed to halt much new settlement and to speed up U.S.-brokered Arab-Israeli peace talks.

But Israel fears the United States could impose tough conditions for the guarantees including painful reforms of its centrally-planned economy.

Some reforms have been made. Liberalisation of capital markets and foreign exchange continue. But other free market measures such as privatising 160 state-owned firms, reducing inflation and cutting labour costs are lagging behind.

Treasury sources said Frenkel will tell Washington that Israel is going to press forward on the full range of reforms.

Israel would not use the loans raised with the guarantees to finance the budget deficit but to invest in infrastructure and the job-creating private sector.

Unemployment stands at a 20-year record of 11.6 per cent. It is 50 per cent in some areas among new immigrants.

"There was coordination between the Bank of Israel and the Treasury and a joint decision will be presented to the United States," the Treasury official said. "The official position is the money won't be used to finance

Dubai Islamic Bank profits up

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) has reported its profits rose to 199 million dirhams (\$54.2 million) in 1991, up 11 per cent from 179 million (\$48.7 million) in 1990.

But DIB, one of the largest Islamic banks in the world, had to set aside about 25 per cent of its profits for losses from exposure in the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), bankers said.

A bank statement carried by the official Al-Itiha newspaper on Tuesday said the bank's budget rose 24 per cent to 4.03 billion dirhams (\$1.09 billion) in 1991 from 3.26 billion dirhams (\$888 million) in 1990.

"This is attributed to the considerable and growing volume of the bank's business and activities," said Chairman Said Ahmad Lootah.

Assets rose stood at 4.04 billion dirhams (\$1.1 billion) and deposits at 3.4 billion dirhams (\$926 million) in 1991.

Lootah said in the statement the bank distributed a cash dividend of 124 million dirhams (\$33 million) to depositors.

A sum of 18 million dirhams (\$4.9 million) went to shareholders and the rest to alms for the poor, bankers said.

Iran seeks foreign investment

NICOSIA (R) — The governor of the Central Bank in Iran, which is keen to encourage private investment, has said that Iranians abroad and even foreigners can buy shares on the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE).

Mohammad Hussein Adeli also held out the prospect of the internationalisation of the exchange.

True, we have not yet internationalised the TSE as yet but it could be done in due course and in due time," he told the English-Language Tehran Times newspaper on Sunday.

Adeli, whose remarks were carried by Iran's IRNA News Agency, said that existing laws enabled Iranians living abroad and foreigners to buy shares on the exchange.

Iran, he added, would use foreign capital in a five-year development plan launched in 1990.

He said a record 62 million shares worth about \$330 million had been traded on the exchange in 1991. "The figures speak for themselves indicating that TSE is getting popular in Iranian society," he added.

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It is the first floor of a two floor building with separate entrance and central heating, a nice yard around the house, telephone, in a very good condition.
Consists of two bed rooms, small room for servant or washing room, sitting room, salon & dining room, kitchen and two bathrooms.
For more information, pls call 616715 from 9 - 12:00 a.m. and from 4:00 - 6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT
The Abdul Hamid Sharaf School, announces the following:
1. Teachers are asked to report for work on Saturday, August 15.
2. Make-up Examinations begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17.
3. All students are requested to finalise registration, arrange for transportation, pay first semester fees and pick up books from August 10-20, 1992.
4. All Classes from Kindergarten - Grade 12 begin on August 22.
Thank you.
Swafiyeh, 6th Circle-South, telephone 814188.

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TWO DELUXE FURNISHED APTS.
Close to each other, Separate C.H., with Telephone.
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WANTED
PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR
The American Embassy in Amman is looking for a professional translator. Must have excellent knowledge of Arabic, ability to translate into fluent, idiomatic English, university degree, good working knowledge of current affairs, ability to work under pressure with precision and speed, and to work day and evening shifts on a regular basis, including weekends. Kurdish language capability highly desirable. Suitable candidates will be asked to undergo translation tests. Only qualified applicants need apply.
Good package compensation offered.
Interested persons may pick an application form from the Embassy and submit it with a recent picture to the attention of the Personnel Officer.
NB: Recent applicants need not re-apply.
Deadline for receiving applications is August 16, 1992.

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
V.I. WARSHAWSK
Shows: 3:30, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30
Weekend At Bernie's
Show: 5 only

Tel: 675571
Nabil Al Mashhal Theatre
at 6:00 p.m. daily
Shahrazad and Sinbad play
A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed.
The next show is:
(Tan' Waqaymeh)

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
The Fox and the Hound
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Tel: 625155
AHLAN THEATRE
Nabil and Hisham
(former Rainbow cinema)
"Ahlam New World and Local Orders"
Shows start at 9 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 2002, Khilda, Amman
Now Registering for September 1992
Children are accepted between the ages of 3-11 years and we are the only school in Amman to offer the full British curriculum adapted for the international community.
Our language of instruction is English with special support for non-English speakers. Staff are U.K. qualified and music, P.E. and drama are taught by specialists right through the school. French and Arabic are also offered.
The school provides a pleasant, stimulating environment — care is taken to meet the needs of each individual child. Visits encouraged.
Registrations are now being taken for the Autumn term every Monday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon throughout July and August.
Telephone: 841070, fax: 847100

U.N. halts Sarajevo relief flights as battle intensifies

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations halted relief flights into Sarajevo for three days as fighting intensified in what both sides said was a major offensive to break the long Serb siege of the city.

A U.N. spokesman said U.N. forces were being caught in cross-fire late Tuesday of one of the fiercest battles the Bosnian capital has endured in four months of conflict.

In New York the U.N. Security Council prepared for closed-door talks on reports of concentration camps in war-torn Bosnia in which civilians are being tortured and murdered.

Mourners at the funeral of two children killed by snipers in Sarajevo fled as the cemetery was bombed with mortar shells Tuesday, wounding a dead girl's grieving grandmother.

U.N. peacekeeping troops were sheltering from the fighting in their bunkers late Tuesday, spokesman Mik Magnusson said. Warring factions had fired weapons from close to U.N. posts which in turn drew return fire, he added.

An Italian transport plane came under fire after delivering aid to the airport but escaped unharmed.

Radio Sarajevo called on all citizens with weapons to report for duty. Sefer Halilovic, chief of staff of the Muslim and Croat forces, said they were ready to "finally liberate Sarajevo" and that reinforcements were approaching from northern Bosnia.

Serb leaders ordered a general mobilisation in areas of Bosnia under their control to counter

what they described as an all-out offensive by Muslim and Croat forces.

Three mortar rounds hit an apartment block next to Sarajevo's Holiday Inn Tuesday night, killing one man and injuring four other people.

Heavy fighting broke out in the Croat-held suburb of Stmp, close to the headquarters of U.N. forces, and Sarajevo residents fled bathtubs with water after officials said Serbs had cut off much of the city's water supply.

Unidentified warplanes were seen flying over Sarajevo and Croatian Radio said a Serb aircraft had been shot down after a bombing raid on the Croatian town of Slavonki Brod.

A statement issued in the name of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali condemned the shelling of the airport on Tuesday, which he said appeared to be deliberate.

During the 72 hours suspension of aid flights, the Deputy Commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Yugoslavia, Major-General Philippe Morillon, would travel to Sarajevo to assess the situation, the U.N. said.

"After 72 hours, and in light of General Morillon's report, a decision will be taken with regard to the future of the operation," it added.

Bomb splinters seriously injured the grandmother at the funeral of one of the children shot during the evacuation of an orphanage that went disastrously wrong on the weekend.

Frightened gravediggers entered the two coffins side by side without ceremony during a mortar attack just before the girl's

mother and grandmother reached the cemetery.

Indira Hadzimerovic, a 17-year-old mourner, said: "We lived happily together for many years and now it has come to killing each other's babies ... what is happening to us?"

The children who survived the evacuation, organised by German politicians Karsten Knolles and Juergen Angelbeck, arrived in the state of Saxony Ahnalt Tuesday.

Mr. Knolles criticised an accusation by U.N. peacekeepers that the decision to drive the children down a boulevard known as sniper's alley bordered on "criminal negligence."

"We saved 40 children," he said. "(They) would still be in a hail of bombs or grenades in Sarajevo today and possibly 10, 15 or more children could have died in the meantime."

Authorities said 18 people had been killed and 116 wounded in fighting in the city in the 24 hours to noon Tuesday, and 32 killed and 261 wounded in Muslim or Croat-held Bosnia.

After widespread reports of Serb-run detention camps in Bosnia in which Muslims and Croats were being tortured or killed, the Serb side said 6,000 of its own people had been murdered in camps set up by Muslims and Croats and almost 20,000 others were being held. There was no independent confirmation of the allegation.

In Belgrade, a Serb spokesman said there were no Serb-run camps. "Only prisons for captured Muslim fighters."

The United States said it and its allies were working on a U.N. resolution that would authorise military force to ensure the flow of relief supplies.

More than 8,000 people have died in fighting that pits pro-independence Muslim and Croats against Serbs since Bosnia became independent from Yugoslavia in March.

President George Bush said in a newspaper interview Wednesday that he had not ruled out deploying U.S. military force in the Yugoslav civil war.

He said it might be useful to achieve humanitarian objectives. But he cautioned that military involvement might produce a Vietnam-type guerrilla war, according to the interview in USA Today.

"Before I'd commit American forces to a battle, I want to know what's the beginning, what's the objective, how's the objective going to be achieved and what's the end," Mr. Bush said in the interview.

Mr. Bush said he does not "see the answers to my questions in terms of the use of substantial military force."

The report did not give Mr. Bush's direct quotes on military intervention but said: "He declined to rule out military action, saying it would be useful in Europe's latest conflict to achieve humanitarian objectives."

Beyond that, Mr. Bush said, he sees little hope for a solution to the ancient ethnic rivalries that have torn Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, France denied Tuesday a report that it had been studying the feasibility of a military strike against Serb forces to stop the fighting in former Yugoslavia.

Russian army morale 'suffering badly'

MOSCOW (R) — A senior Russian general was quoted as saying the army was sick of being caught in the crossfire of ethnic fighting and discontent has festered since the early days of Mikhail Gorbachev's rule at the Kremlin.

Major-General Alexander Lebed told Sovetskaya Rossiya newspaper: "For seven long years the army has been torn asunder, locked up in barracks, used (by enemies) to wipe their feet. We have had enough."

Gen. Lebed, whose outspokenness has incurred the Russian leadership's anger in the past, was clearly referring to problems facing the army since Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms beginning in 1985.

Ethnic fighting and withdrawal of forces from Eastern Europe following the breakup of the Soviet Union has brought new problems for the Russian army.

The Baltic states have been pressing Moscow to pull its troops out of their territory, but Russia is stalling while it makes preparations to absorb the homecoming troops.

Gen. Lebed is commander of the 14th Army based in the troubled republic of Moldova, where his troops are frequently caught in crossfire between Moldovan forces and independence fighters in the Slav breakaway Dnestr region.

He said warning sides in the former Soviet republic must quickly come to terms.

"Everyone in Moldova is fed up with the war," he said.

There was a lull in fighting in the past week after a joint Russian-Moldovan peacekeeping force was sent to the area.

Units of opposing sides were due to leave the border area of the self-proclaimed Dnestr Republic Tuesday.

No fighting was reported from Moldova Tuesday, nor from Georgia's troubled rebel district of South Ossetia where a similar Russian-Georgian force has been separating warring factions since last month.

South Ossetians want to merge with North Ossetia, which is part of Russia.

Dozens of servicemen have been killed in Transcaucasia.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian and Azerbaijani forces clashed and Interfax News Agency said at least 12 people were killed.

It quoted the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry as saying Azeri artillery had hit two Armenian armoured cars and artillery positions.

Karabakh, an Armenian region of Azerbaijan seeking independence from Baku, has been the site of the worst fighting in the former Soviet Union. Over 2,000 people have been killed in almost four years of conflict.

In Rome, the latest talks aimed at organising a full-blown peace conference on the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh headed for an inconclusive end Tuesday, bogged down in procedural wrangles, delegates said.

The 11 nations meeting in Rome since Friday have been given until Tuesday night to wind up their acrimonious discussions.

The Rome talks on Nagorno-Karabakh are the fourth attempt this year to convene an international peace conference in the Belarussian capital Minsk, originally due to open on June 23.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy approves anti-mafia law

ROME (R) — The Italian parliament Tuesday passed a package of tough anti-mafia measures aimed at strengthening the state's hand following the recent murders of two leading judges. The package which gives the police wider powers including the use of undercover "sting" operations, wiretaps and infiltrators was approved by an overwhelming majority. The lower House also passed an amendment which means politicians caught buying votes from Gangsters could face up to six years in prison. The measures were drawn up after the murder of leading anti-mafia judge Giovanni Falcone in a car bomb outside Palermo in May. They were re-drafted when Falcone's colleague Paolo Borsellino was also killed by the mafia in a bomb attack in the Sicilian capital last month. Another amendment abolished the office of anti-mafia high commissioner, a job set up with much fanfare four years ago but which has proved ineffective despite its extensive powers.

Former New Zealand premier dies

WELLINGTON (R) — Sir Robert Muldoon, prime minister of New Zealand between 1975 and 1984, died Wednesday. Prime Minister Jim Bolger said. Mr. Bolger said he had been telephoned with the news by Sir Robert's wife Thea, who said Sir Robert, aged 70, died peacefully in his sleep in an Auckland hospital early Wednesday morning. Sir Robert retired from politics last year and had suffered nausea in the past few weeks as a result of medication aimed at stabilising heart problems. But he still had time to carry out his weekly duties as host of a radio talk show as late as Sunday, when he declared himself a supporter of proportional representation, on which New Zealand will vote in September.

Georgia offers amnesty to rebels

MOSCOW (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze lifted the state of emergency in the capital Tbilisi and dropped charges against anti-government rebels, local journalists said. The provisional State Council, headed by Mr. Shevardnadze, took the dramatic steps after a heated, closed-door session lasting late into Monday night. "The manifesto, approved by the State Council on Aug. 3, marks the implementation in the republic of a policy of national reconciliation and consensus," a close aide to Mr. Shevardnadze told Interfax News Agency. Mr. Shevardnadze signed the document Tuesday. The council, which replaced ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in January, also banned all political parties with ties to paramilitary forces. Many council members have links to groups which have been fighting Mr. Gamsakhurdia supporters.

Mrs. Honecker accused of child abduction

MUNICH, Germany (R) — An east German woman who says her son was taken away from her on the orders of Margot Honecker has asked prosecutors to charge the wife of former Communist leader Erich Honecker with child abduction. Lawyers for the woman said they had filed papers alleging that Margot Honecker, known as "the witch" by many east Germans, was responsible as education minister for placing the two-year-old child in a home and later having him adopted against the wishes of the mother. The mother, a chemist who was not named, was jailed for 4½ years in 1974 for trying to "flee the republic," a serious criminal offence in east Germany. Her son is now 22. Mrs. Honecker's state secretary and three other officials were also named in the papers presented to prosecutors in Munich. Mrs. Honecker, a staunch Communist who was east German education minister from 1963 to 1989, flew to Chile from Moscow last week when her husband was brought back to Germany to face manslaughter charges connected with killings at the Berlin Wall. She is now living with her daughter in Santiago.

Czechoslovak cardinal dies

PRAGUE (R) — Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, who died on Tuesday, championed religious and civil liberties despite 40 years of harassment by Czechoslovakia's Communist authorities who ruthlessly suppressed the Roman Catholic Church. Tomasek, 93, withstood some of the harshest persecution in Eastern Europe and played a key role in the peaceful revolution that toppled Communist rule in 1989 and restored free religious activities. Finally, at the age of 91 and with the appointment of the Vatican's first nunzio (ambassador) since 1949, Cardinal Tomasek was given permission by Pope John Paul to retire as Archbishop of Prague and hand over to a younger man. Cardinal Tomasek, a craggy and stocky man outwardly lively and fit despite bouts of ill-health, was more than a decade over the normal retiring age for a cardinal, but the Pope persuaded him to remain until 1991 when the newly revived nunciature was fully operational in Prague. The last nunzio before the restoration of relations with the Vatican was expelled in July 1949, the first step in the Communists' crackdown on religion which included the overnight closure of monasteries and convents and the licensing of priests by the state.

Escobar denies responsibility for blast

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — Fugitive Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar denied that he was responsible for a powerful car bomb blast that injured seven people in a suburb and blamed it on a rival drug-trafficking group. "My brother Roberto and I publicly promised the ... Colombian people that we would not carry out violent actions of any kind and that promise has not been broken," the Medellin cocaine cartel boss said in a taped statement sent to a radio station. A radio announcer read out the statement, which the radio said it had received recorded in Mr. Escobar's own voice. Mr. Escobar said Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, boss of the rival Cali cocaine cartel, was "the leader of disinformation." "He is the one responsible for this attack," he said.

Bush tries to rally rattled Republicans

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has tried to lift the spirits of Republican members of Congress who fear disaster in the Nov. 3 election, and easing away saying his morale-boosting mission had been successful.

"It was a good, unified meeting ... we are getting ready for our convention, and much more, we're getting ready to take them (the Democrats) on in this election," Mr. Bush told reporters after visiting Republican senators at the U.S. Capitol.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, who challenged Mr. Bush for the Republican nomination in 1988, gave him a gold-coloured medal with "heavyweight champion" stamped on it.

Mr. Bush was also given a pair of red and white boxing gloves with "Democrat" written on one and "Congress" on the other.

Emerging from the hour-long session, the president beamed that it was "upbeat" and "very positive." The meeting occurred one week after rattled congressional Republicans blasted Mr. Bush campaign manager Fred Malek for the seeming disorganisation of Mr. Bush's bid for re-election.

Many of the legislators are also running for reelection, and they fear that a groundswell of anti-Bush sentiment could sweep them out of office. The president's flagging political fortunes are due largely to a sluggish economy.

A new Cable News Network poll showed that if the election were held today, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton would win 57 per cent of the vote to Mr. Bush's 32 per cent. The poll was conducted by the Gallup Polling Organisation for CNN on Aug. 3. It had a margin of error of four percentage points, meaning the results could vary by that margin.

If Mr. Bush's current unpopularity was a discussion topic, none of the Congress members who attended Tuesday's meeting with the president was willing to talk about it.

"People are ready to get the campaign going. We're ready to go out and tell America what we're for, and also get America to look at what Mr. Clinton's for," said Senator Phil Gramm, a Texas Republican who will be keynote speaker at the party's Aug. 17-20 convention in Houston.

Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming added that there was no further talk of dumping Vice President Dan Quayle from the ticket. "There is no prospect of that at all," he said. Polls indicate that a large majority of the voters doubt Mr. Quayle's ability to assume the presidency.

At the start of the meeting, Mr. Bush was asked by a reporter about a New York Times report that morale in Republican ranks on Capitol Hill is so low that at least 15 of the party's 44 senators have decided for the moment not to attend the party convention.

"I don't know that that's true at all," he said.

A raging controversy continued to swirl, meanwhile, around a top Bush campaign aide for issuing a news release that accused Mr. Clinton of using political contributions to fend off charges of marital infidelity.

Mr. Bush disowned the statement, which was prepared by political director Mary Matalin, Monday. But the Clinton campaign refused to let the issue die.

"You know, we've seen this kind of campaign out of Mr. Bush and the Republicans before," said Clinton communications director George Stephanopoulos.

Greece protests Yeltsin's pledge to recognise Macedonia

ATHENS (AP) — Greece protested angrily after Russian President Boris Yeltsin pledged to recognise the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia without its first changing its name.

"Today's statements by Russian President Yeltsin, if attributed correctly, are unacceptable and provoke the Greek people's justifiable exasperation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Dimitris Avramopoulos said.

He warned that relations between Greece and Russia could be harmed.

In past months, Russia had assured Greece that it would follow European Community (EC) policy on the issue of Macedonia. The EC, at Greece's insistence, announced in June that it would

recognise the small Balkan country only after it changed its name.

Greece says that the name implies claims on the northern Greek territory called Macedonia. It refers to its neighbour as Skopje, after its capital.

"Greece calls on the Russian leadership to face up to its great responsibility, and reminds it that such statements — as well as the possible recognition of Skopje, under the historical Greek name of Macedonia — are clearly an unfriendly act with negative consequences for our relations," Mr. Avramopoulos said.

On a visit to neighbouring Bulgaria, Mr. Yeltsin said that "Russia must... immediately recognise the independence of Macedonia,

and the people of that country alone have the right to decide its name."

Mr. Avramopoulos said that Greece's ambassador in Moscow had been instructed to lodge a protest with the Russian government.

Only Bulgarian, Turkey, Croatia and Slovenia have recognised Macedonia.

Mr. Yeltsin addressed reporters after signing a 10-year friendship treaty with Bulgaria, replacing a Soviet-Bulgarian pact that limited Bulgarian sovereignty.

Mr. Yeltsin also said he and his Bulgarian counterpart, Zhelyu Zhelev, would appeal to the European Community to recognise Macedonia.

Quebec meets rest of Canada for 1st talks in 2 years

OTTAWA (R) — Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa ended a two-year boycott and met with leaders of the rest of Canada Tuesday to try to resolve a decades-old dispute over greater autonomy for the French-speaking province.

The negotiations, the first since a previous round failed in June 1990, dragged on for seven hours and will continue next Monday, raising hopes of settling the nagging separatist issue.

"Everyone was, of course, very happy to have Mr. Bourassa back at the table," Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark, who negotiated a reform package between English Canada's nine provinces, told a news conference.

"There is a sense that the (reform) process is proceeding well, that the discussion is of critical importance to the country and there is a willingness to make it work," he said.

But Mr. Bourassa said Quebec had serious difficulties in accepting a proposal to turn Canada's appointed Senate into an elected body with equal seats for all 10 provinces. Quebec currently has a quarter of the senate seats.

"It is very difficult today to predict what will be the outcome of next week's meeting," Mr. Bourassa told reporters.

The meeting was called by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney at his summer residence on a lake outside Ottawa to sound out Quebec's response to the reforms that include decentralisation of federal powers and the recognition of the French-speaking province as a distinct society within Canada.

Alberta Premier Don Getty, whose oil-rich province has long complained it has little say in Ottawa, insisted that the equal Senate was not negotiable.

"There are some differences that have to be closed... I do not in any way feel any great sense of optimism that they can be closed, but we are going to keep working at it," he said.

Quebec, which plans to hold a referendum on sovereignty in late October, is also unhappy with a plan to grant Canada's half-million native peoples the right to self-government. They are opposing hydroelectric dam projects in northern Quebec.

Quebec has refused to join talks since the collapse of the so-called Meech Lake Accord two years ago due to opposition by native groups and Newfoundland, Canada's poorest province.

The French-speaking province, which has actively sought to protect its cultural heritage from being swamped by English Canada since the 1960s, also wants a veto over the creation of new provinces.

"The problems may prove to be intractable," said Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow.



Jani Allan arrives at court.

U.K. judge tells libel jury to give fair damages

LONDON (R) — The judge in a South African journalist's libel action over an allegation she had an affair with right-wing leader Eugene Terre Blanche has urged jurors to be realistic in awarding any damages.

"Any damages should be fair and reasonable," said Judge Sir Humphrey Potts. "Bear in mind what you know money can buy in 1992," he added.

Huge libel awards, sometimes worth hundreds of thousands of pounds (dollars), made by British juries in recent years have been widely criticised and judges have now tended to urge them to assess damages more moderately.

The judge was summing up in the case of journalist Jani Allan, who is suing Britain's Channel 4 television over a film she alleges falsely portrayed her as a woman of easy virtue who had an affair with Terre Blanche.

Terre Blanche, leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) — Afrikaner Resistance Movement, also denies an affair. Channel 4 says the programme did not suggest an affair but even if it had, the allegation would be justified.

During the trial the court heard defence witness Linda Shaw, Allan's former flatmate, say she looked a keyhole and saw Ms. Allan and Mr. Terre Blanche apparently having sex.

The judge urged the jury not to speculate, but to try the case on the ten days of evidence they had heard. "One thing is certain — somebody has told lies in this court," he said.

"Keep your eyes on the central issue. Did Jani Allan have an adulterous affair with Terre Blanche or did she not?"

The judge said that if the jury decided there was a libel, it would have to consider its effect on Ms. Allan's position, standing and reputation and the upset, anxiety and embarrassment caused to her.

Any award was not to punish Channel 4 but to compensate and vindicate Ms. Allan.

If the jurors found Channel 4 had failed to justify its central allegation that Ms. Allan and Mr. Terre Blanche had an affair, but concluded they had a relationship falling short of sexual intercourse, they could reflect that in any damages award.

COLUMN

Algerian, Zimbabwean share literary award

HARARE (R) — An Algerian and a Zimbabwean were named joint 1992 winners of the annual Noma Award for Publishing in Africa. Zimbabwe Higher Education Minister Stan Mudenge announced the winners on the second day of a week-long international book fair. Soud Khodja, rewarded for her book, *A Comme Algeriennes*, (A For Algerian Women), shared the \$5,000 Noma Award with Zimbabwean Charles Mungoshi for his book, *One Day, Long Ago*. Both books were published last year. The award was established in 1979 by Japanese businessman Shoichi Noma to promote literature in developing countries.

U.K. queen mother marks 92nd birthday

LONDON (R) — The 92-year-old queen mother gave Britain's beleaguered royal family something to celebrate Tuesday when her birthday sparked an outburst of royalist fervour in London. The mother of Queen Elizabeth encountered hundreds of well-wishers during a customary birthday "walkabout" outside her London royal residence, Clarence House. "We are here because we love her. She is an example to us all," said well-wisher Norman Williams, 54, who wore an outfit decorated with the Union Jack flag. To mark the birthday, British Broadcasting Corporation Radio played the national anthem at regular intervals and soldiers fired a 41-gun royal salute in London's Hyde Park. The dowager Queen Elizabeth the queen mother is the widow of George VI, who became king after his brother Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson amid a welter of controversy.

Child commandeers, car, zooms through suburbs

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP) — A 9-year-old boy who had squabbled with his father about cleaning his room took off in the family car with a neighbour chasing him at speeds up to 70 mph (113 kph), police and witnesses said. The ride ended when the boy, with his 7-year-old sister in the car, slammed head-on into another car stopped at a busy intersection. Police said there were no serious injuries. On the way, the 4-foot-tall (1.2 metres) boy zoomed through traffic lights and stop signs, brushed a startled road surveyor, hit two cars and almost ran over his mother, who jumped in front of the car to try to stop him. "For a young kid, he was driving pretty good," said the surveyor, Richard Mehl. A Neighbour, Tony McCullough, then drove the mother on a chase through two suburbs and into Kansas City. McCullough said they reached speeds of 70 mph (113 kph). Officer Terrance Hall said the boy's father had yelled at him the night before for not cleaning his room. The boy's name was not released.

Police arrest man for 'multiple' slayings

MIDDLETOWN, New York (AP) — A man on parole from prison was charged in the slayings of six women. New York State Police said. The bodies of the women have been recovered in the Middletown area, about 55 miles (90 kilometres) northwest of New York City, since 1991, said Maj. James D. O'Donnell. Nathaniel White, 32, of Middletown, was arrested in connection with the most recent of the slayings, of Adrienne M. Hunter, 27, said Maj. O'Donnell, a New York State Police commander. Her nude body was found last Thursday in a wooded area in Goshen, about five miles (eight kilometres) east of Middletown. She had been stabbed to death, authorities said. After his arrest, Mr. White was charged with five other murders, Maj. O'Donnell said.

Riviera millionaire recovers stolen paintings

NICE (R) — Police in the south of France have recovered four stolen paintings by Matisse, Modigliani and Degas in a car near Nice's railway station after an anonymous tip-off. The paintings, snatched last week from the Riviera home of Franco-Lebanese millionaire Antony Tanoumi, were valued by the owner at 170 million francs (\$34 million).

